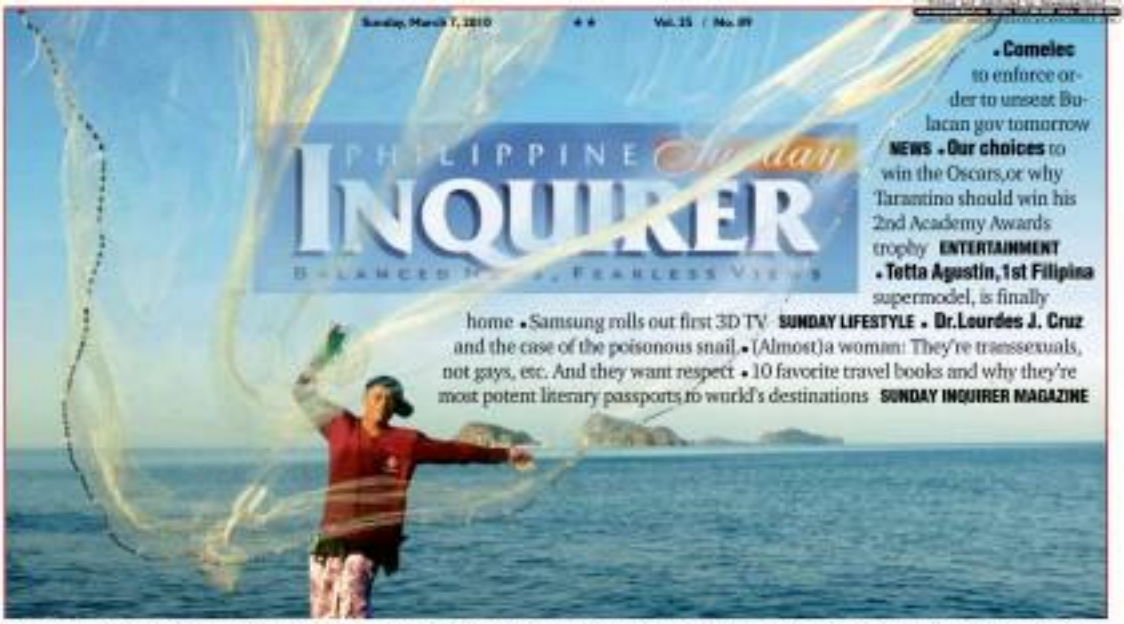
Sunday, March 7, 2010 ★★ Vol. 25 / No. 89

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER

BALANCED ... FEARLESS ...

• Comelec to enforce order to unseat Bulacan gov tomorrow NEWS • Our choices to win the Oscars, or why Tarantino should win his 2nd Academy Awards trophy ENTERTAINMENT • Tetta Agustin, 1st Filipina supermodel, is finally home • Samsung rolls out first 3D TV SUNDAY LIFESTYLE • Dr. Lourdes J. Cruz and the case of the poisonous snail • (Almost)a woman: They're transsexuals, not gays, etc. And they want respect • 10 favorite travel books and why they're most potent literary passports to world's destinations SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE



SUMMERTIME AND THE FISHING IS EASY With the rocky Capones island in the background, a Zambales fisherman throws his net along the coast of Puerta de Uian in San Antonio town. Zambales' long South China Sea coastline yields its fishermen a rich haul. His fishkill here. PHILIP ESPEJO

No crisis powers for GMA

Congress can't get quorum to deal with Mindanao blackouts

By Leila Salaverria, Christine Avendaño and Cynthia D. Balana

SPEAKER PROSPERO NOGRALES YESTERDAY RULED OUT calling a special session of Congress to address the power crisis in Mindanao, saying that none of the House members had been able to commit themselves to such a session.

"It's final. Most congressmen may not be able to attend," Nograles said.

He said President Macapagal-Arroyo had also reconsidered her plan to call Congress to a special session to address the power crisis in Mindanao.

The President needs congressional approval to declare an emergency in Mindanao, which would empower her to speedily send new generators to the region.

On Friday, Nograles and Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile said they were willing to call a special session but expressed doubt they could muster a quorum as many legislators seeking elective office in the May election were in the think of campaigning.

But some legislators, particularly from Mindanao, did not agree with Nograles that a special session could not be called.

Legislators should set aside politics to address the power crisis, said Deputy Speaker Simeon Datumanong of Maguindanao.

"The President's emergency powers will certainly help in quickly solving the energy crisis," he said in a statement.

Zamboanga del Sur Rep. Antonio Cerilles said Congress should hold a special session to discuss the granting of special powers to the President.

"Mindanao is now suffering from

NO EMERGENCY A6

REPORTERS' NOTEBOOK

On the trail with Dick, Gibo, Manny, Noynoy

What goes on at the sidelines and behind the scenes on the campaign trail? The Inquirer will regularly run vignettes that do not make it to the regular news. -Ed.

A GROUP OF BUSINESSMEN recently asked Bayani Fernando, the running mate of Bagumbayan standard-bearer Richard "Dick" Gordon, what position he would seek should they win in May.

"I won't ask for anything. If he wants me, I will have everything," Fernando replied.

As laughter erupted, Gordon got up and told his perennial spare tire: "Thank you for giving me such comfort."

* * *

Gordon markets himself as the "Education President," and among his promises is to allot a bigger budget for the Department of Education should he win.

In his speeches, he always laments the lack of toilets and dental clinics in public schools—a shortage that he blames on the rampant pocketing of government funds by certain lawmakers and conniving department officials.

"The public schools are so crowded, you have 150 children to one toilet bowl. Sometimes even 200 children! That's probably why we have congressmen full of you-know-what," Gordon would say.

* * *

In 2000 when he was still chair of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Fernando joined the second season of "Celebrity Duets" and emerged champion.

He told reporters that he joined the singing contest so he and Gordon would not have to hire celebrities as a come-on during their rallies.

It looks like the game plan was correct. Just before the nomination that

ON THE TRAIL A13

Sisters' act for bachelor brother makes election history

By Philip C. Tubeza

NO WIFE? NOT TO WORRY. HAVE four sisters.

Not since Elpidio Quirino in Philippine electoral history has there been a presidential candidate campaigning without a wife.

But Liberal Party standard-bearer Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, 50 and unmarried, has four sisters hammering in his behalf.

Three sisters are "very private" but are no less formidable than their youngest, highly visible celebrity sister Kris.

"When we get into something, we're in it to win," Maria Elena "Ballsy" Aquino-Cruz told the Inquirer.

Added Aurora Corazon "Pinky" Aquino-Abellada: "Losing is not an

ENTIRE A6

BROADCASTER KAREN DAVILA: One of three Filipinos in World Economic Forum's list of Young Global Leaders for 2010. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Young shaker called to shape global future

By Leila B. Salaverria

IT IS A TESTAMENT TO THE POWER of Philippine media that a television news anchor has been recognized as a potential shaper of the world's future, along with prominent movers and shakers such as the heads of Twitter, YouTube and Google.

But broadcaster Karen Davila, one of three Filipinos in the World Economic Forum's (WEF) roster of Young Global Leaders for 2010, believes Philippine media can do much more as an agent of change.

A Geneva-based non-profit foundation, the WEF is best known for its annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, which brings together the world's heads of state and other leaders in various fields to discuss the most pressing issues facing the world.

The two other Filipinos recognized for their outstanding achievements were Dennis Eclarin, founder of Homestown Corp., which provides loans to micro-entrepreneurs in remote provinces, and Winston Damarillo, CEO of Global Gateway Innovation Exchange, a catalyst to the development of the country's information technology industry.

YOUNG A6

For a song, Kris endorses Tito Sotto

By Cathy Yamsuan

WHY IS KRIS AQUINO ENDORSING the Senate run of Tito Sotto when he is not in the Liberal Party slate?

Kris, as most people know, is the youngest sister of LP standard-bearer Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III. Sotto, on the other hand, is the lone senatorial candidate

TEAM SONG A4

Once upon a time a poor boy lived in this Tondo house

By Nikko Dizon

PERHAPS THE LEAST THE METRO workers could have done was paint the house on Mariones Street in the colors of the man who once lived there.

That they daubed the house in green—the humble color of one of Manuel Villar's rivals for the presidency—may have been too much for Villar's followers to take.

Old and decaying, its windows boarded up with plywood, the three-story structure in Tondo had apparently become an eyesore. In March last year, workers of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority gave it a new coat of paint as part of the MMDA cleanup campaign.

In a further show of zeal, they also scrawled the words "Mento Gunpo" on one of its walls.

Villar's staffers were upset.

"They were angry and asked why we allowed it to be painted in that color and why they weren't told," Villar's sister and house caretaker Marilyn Bunsie-Reyes told the Inquirer.

The workers also dismantled Reyes' small store on the sidewalk fronting the house.

No one lives in the decades-old 60-square-meter house on the corner of Sta. Maria and Mariones Extension Streets anymore. A huge crack on one wall and other smaller cracks here and there that the green paint failed to hide add to its bedraggled look.

The streak seeking from the eaves added more melancholia to the house's sorry state.

ONCE A6

WEATHER FORECAST

Second
FRONTPAGE

EZ2+
2-14-7
3-24-5
4-8-1

SUPER LOTTO 6/49
1-0-2-1
2-3-1-8
3-0-1-4

SIX DIGIT Swertres
9 7 1 6 0 7

4/31 LUZ-MIN-VIS
5 10 12 17 31 35
P14,640,281.80

POWER LOTTO 6/42
39 3 43 32 06 + 7
P100,248,417.00

Comelec covers more bases for vote

By Kristine L. Alave

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS (COMELEC) has mixed new guidelines to provide remedies for at least three concerns in the coming polls: What if there is a shortage of ballots in a precinct? What if the counting machine rejects a ballot? Will there be enough staff to answer voters' questions about the new automation process?

Revised General Instructions for Board of Election Inspectors (BEI), released on March 4, includes two new sections to "fine tune the process and address" procedural gaps" ahead of the May 10 national and local automated polls.

One new section (Section 57) addresses the possibility of ballot shortages in some precincts. "In case the official ballots of a precinct have all been used up and there are still voters registered in the precinct waiting to cast their votes," the following procedure will be followed.

The chair of the BEI will ensure that the voters are eligible to vote and write down their names in the minutes. The chair then issues a certificate saying that they are indeed registered voters. The chair will then assign a third member of the BEI to accompany the voters to the next nearest precinct to cast their vote.

The Comelec cannot fix the issue of a ballot shortage after the Supreme Court extended the registration period to December 2009.

In all, the poll body said 50.7 million voters registered for purposes in the May 10 polls. Each voter will only get one ballot.

The new instructions also detailed new procedures to ease the Precinct Count Optical Scan machine rejects a ballot. Now, the Comelec will allow a voter to feed the ballot to the machine four times instead of the original two.

If the PCOS rejects a ballot, the voter will be allowed to review the ballot for ambiguous marks and check if the actual number of the ballot matches that of the precinct.

After the review, the BEI should "let the voter refeed the ballot," the EI said.

Another new section (Section 58) requires Department of Education supervisors for election day duty to assist voters.

According to the instructions, there should be at least one DepEd supervisor with support staff at every polling center. The number of DepEd supervisors per polling center will depend on the number of precincts in the area, the Comelec said.

The DepEd supervisor will help the election officer in record management and voters' assistance. The DepEd official will also be in contact with police and military personnel nearby and can coordinate with them if there is a need, the poll body said.

11 soldiers killed in Mindoro ambush by NPA

[illegible] LAGUNA—AT LEAST 11 SOLdiers were killed and three others wounded in an ambush by gunmen suspected to be New People's Army rebels in Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro, on Saturday morning, according to military officials.

It was the Army's biggest loss in a single encounter with communist rebels this year.

The soldiers were on patrol when they ran into a fortified camp of the NPA, Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesperson Col. Romeo Brawner said.

A three-hour gun battle ensued with "unprecedented casualties" on the side of the rebels, he said.

"The troops fought it out literally to the last bullet," Brawner said.

Lt. Col. Noel Detoyato, spokesperson for the Army's 2nd Infantry Division, said the ambush was staged by about 60 NPA guerrillas.

More soldiers backed by helicopter gunships had been dispatched to track down the NPA insurgents, he said.

The soldiers were patrolling the area as part of security measures to ensure fair conditions in the May elections would be able to campaign safely, said Brawner.

The NPA have been demanding payment from candidates to exchange for "permit to campaign" cards. Those who refuse to pay are attacked and sometimes killed. *Marlene P. Cinco, Inquirer Southern Luzon and AFP*

Comelec unseats Camarines N. gov

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE SUPREME COURT HAS ANnulled the proclamation of Jesse O. Typoco as the winner of the gubernatorial race in Camarines Norte in the May 14, 2007, elections and ordered the proclamation of Edgardo A. Tallado instead.

Voting 11-2 with one abstention, the high court also upheld several Comelec (Commission on Election) resolutions, in particular, the First Division's decision of April 30, 2009, granting a petition for the correction of a manifest error filed by Tallado.

The Comelec resolution was issued on Election Records and Statistics Division (ERSD) copies of the Statement of Votes by Precinct (SOVP) and the Certificate of Canvass of Votes (COC). The number of votes on these copies did not correspond with the number of votes reflected in the municipality of Labo.

The Comelec directed the Municipal Board of Canvassers of Labo to correct the error in the COC and submit it to a New Provincial Board of Canvassers for Camarines Norte, which in turn was directed to proclaim Tallado the winner.

According to the Comelec, Tallado won with 79,969 votes over Typoco's 79,806 votes.

"We find that the Comelec, in ordering the correction of manifest errors in the SOVP and COC, merely exercised its inquisitorial powers to ascertain the true will of the electorate of the province," the high court en banc said in a 27-page decision penned by Justice Antonio Eduardo B. Nachura.

The decision, promulgated on March 5, 2010, was released to the media yesterday.

The high court said "the proclamation and assumption of office of petitioner (Typoco) based on finally tabulated—but flawed right from the beginning and now therefore, be annulled."

It brushed aside Typoco's contention that the Comelec had committed grave abuse of discretion when it "refused to rely on" the SOVP when the National Bureau of Investigation found the copies to be spurious.

The high tribunal also ruled that the withdrawal of election documents was best left to the Comelec.

It also did not find merit in Typoco's contention that a recanvass of the election returns (ERs) should be undertaken in order to determine the mandate of the electorate.

Energy exec says gov't to blame for power crisis

CLARK CITY—ENERGY UNdersecretary Zenaida Amphlett said it was not the El Niño weather phenomenon but the government's lack of planning that gave rise to the power crisis.

Amphlett said the main problem was really power generation, "so let us stop blaming the weather."

"We have to accept the fact that we did not generate enough power," he said during an information campaign on the 2010 Philippine Energy Plan and Science Energy 101 held in Subic (21 on Thursday).

Amphlett said the government did not have a concrete energy plan before the onset of the power crisis that the National Grid Corp. of the Philippines, the private operator of the country's transmission network, has blamed on the prolonged dry spell which has left many dams unable to provide electricity.

Amphlett said the country generated 60 percent of its power source from hydroelectric plants and did not have a plan for alternative energy sources.

He said building more hydropower plants was out of the question because when the level of water sources is depleted, as happens every summer, the country faces a power crisis.

On Friday, the power deficiency in Mindanao reached 710 megawatts as predicted demand rose to 1,431 MS. The hydropower plants and other power sources were only churning out about 710 megawatts.

Amphlett said the country had the wrong mix of energy sources.

He noted that among the most viable sources of energy were coal-fired power plants, but stressed that only "clean coal technologies" should be adopted.

But while the government may want to put up coal-fired power plants, it does not have the funds for said.

A 1,000-MW coal-fired power plant costs $2 billion, he noted. "Where will the government get such an amount?" he said.

Amphlett said the solution lies in the private sector, which could put more money into the construction of coal-fired power plants.

Last Friday, the first unit of the 246-MW ultra coal-fired power plant of the Cebu Energy Development Corp. began full commercial operations in Toledo, Cebu. The first unit has a capacity of 82 MW. The remaining two units, also with 82-MW capacity each, will begin operations in May and December.

There is only one coal-fired power plant operating in Mindanao, the 210-MW plant in Mt. Apo, Mission Oriental, owned by STEAG State Power Inc. Corp. *With Phil. Ryan Bevacqua and Princess Lira, Inquirer Mindanao*

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FOR DENMARK, FROM RP
Danish Ambassador to the Philippines Svend Wiuncke (left) congratulates Honorary Consul Rowena Ulbarde J. Buenaventura, who was awarded the Knight Order of the Dannebrog by Queen Margrethe of Denmark. The Order is awarded to a select group of people who through selfless deeds have helped advance the interests of Denmark.

US court sure of Aquino role

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE US DISTRICT COURT OF NEW JERSEY in Newark is convinced that former Philippine National Police Supt. Michael Ray Aquino was involved in the murder more than nine years ago of publicist Salvador Dacer and his driver, Emmanuel Corbito, when it granted Manila's request for his extradition to face charges here.

In a March 4, 2010, ruling, US Judge Dennis Cavanaugh said Manila's evidence to justify holding the accused in secret hiding in the country is a copy of the decision obtained by the Department of Justice and the Interpol.

Judge supported the Philippine government's assertion that Aquino was involved in the crime, stating Manila had been able to present ample evidence to support its position that Aquino was directing other people involved in the investigation, interrogation and eventual murders of Dacer and Corbito.

"Indeed, the Republic of the Philippines did not seek Aquino's extradition based on the 'personal knowledge' of one of its prosecutors. Furthermore, the Republic of the Philippines has provided the court with more than one piece of information [indicating Aquino's involvement in the crime charged," the court said.

Aquino, who served as the deputy director of the PNP Intelligence Group and of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF), fled to the US on a tourist visa on July 7, 2005. Until his arrest, he lived in Queens, New York.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, former PNP chief and head of PAOCTF, was also charged in January with two counts of murder based on the testimony of his close aide in the PAOCTF, Senior Supt. Cesar Mancao II. The testimony was corroborated by another Lacson aide, Glenn Dumlao.

Lacson fled abroad days before the court issued a warrant for his arrest in early January. He has yet to be located by the NBI.

Aquino opposed the extradition hearing which began on Nov. 25, 2009. He questioned the use of what he claimed to be hearsay statements in the Philippine government's extradition request, the government's failure to provide sufficient evidence to establish probable cause that he committed the alleged offense, the court's consideration of the supplemental amended information charging the documents were not certified by the principal diplomatic or consular officer of the requested state, and the court's exclusion of certain information contained from Aquino and Ocampo during their respective depositions.

The review of Lacson's removal aide could be a big help in solving the murder of Dacer and Corbito, a Palace official said yesterday.

Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Ricardo Saludo told dzBB radio the government had been seeking justice for Dacer and Corbito and that was why the review of Aquino "is a big help in our drive for justice." With a report from Christine O. Avendaño

'Jueteng' whistle-blower laid to rest

BARAKA, ALBAY—FORMER SORSOGON Vice Mayor Willy Vargas, 52, who was shot dead in Bicol City on Sunday, was laid to rest in simple rites here Saturday afternoon.

More than 500 family members, friends and supporters accompanied the remains of Mayor Vargas, the whistle-blower who linked President Macapagal-Arroyo's elder son to the illegal numbers game "tatoong" at a tension-filled, as they were brought to a grave at the Peñaloza Memorial Gardens in nearby Legazpi City.

Speaking for the family, Mayor's daughter Maybell said divine justice swirled for killer's murderers.

"Habulo na sanodo an Dios. Mabisto man an panahon nindo (Let God deal with you. Your time will come)," she told her father's killer in the Tagal Chapel, her hands trembling.

"I know that my father has already forgiven you. But you have given the Lord no choice but to deal with you, just as your awareness are dealing with you now," she added.

Maybelle, noting that her father was not political, asked people who had nothing good to say about him to respect his memory.

No politicians were seen at the burial, but some sent wreaths.

One of them came from Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who brought Mayor to the Senate to reveal the alleged involvement of the First Family in "tatoong" payoffs.

Lacson, who faces arrest in connection with the Salvador Dacer-Emmanuel Corbito murder case, is believed to have fled the country.

Mayor's supporters from Barangay Tugas, where he lived and once served as barangay captain, were black shirts with Mayor's face printed on them.

"Tugas" means tough in the local dialect, and they used it to describe their former leader.

"Talagang matapang ka. (You are really tough)," the words on the T-shirts said.

Words written on cardboard in Mayor's office graffiti read, "I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept my faith."

A task force formed by the Philippine National Police arrived here on Tuesday to gather leads in Mayor's murder. Ephraim Aguilar and Blue Arguelles, Inquirer Southern Luzon

More bishops break tradition, back JC

FOUR MORE CATHOLIC BISHOPS HAVE expressed support for Sen. Kapatirán presidential candidate Jejomar "JC" de los Reyes, among the number of prelates who broke tradition by endorsing a candidate—De los Reyes—to run.

The website of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), which set a whole class not endorse candidates, said Bishops Antonio Tobias of Novaliches, Joseph Nacua of Digos and Antonio Palang of San Jose de Mindoro, and retired Bishop Teodoro Bacani were for De los Reyes.

Two other prelates, Lipa Archbishop Ramon Arguelles and Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra, had earlier announced their support for him.

Sen. Kapatirán's stand against artificial family planning has gained favor with CBCP members.

Bacani said the political party deserved the support of "any intelligent Catholic" because it was founded with a Christian agenda.

"I hope it will reach far in the imagination and hearts of our formation of this political party. I hope people would join it in great numbers and promote it among fellow Filipinos," Bacani said.

Nacua said he was backing De los Reyes because of Sen. Kapatirán's stand to do away with personality-based politics and to concentrate on spreading democratic platforms.

"Kapatirán stands on principles for the common good, not on personalities. That is the way of genuine representation in government," Nacua said.

De los Reyes, an Olongapo City councilor, has come in as the frontrunner of election surveys, however. Kristine L. Alave

Mindanaoans text yearning for peace

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TERRORISM, THE DISABILITIES, POVERTY and the dire economic conditions in the South, Mindanaoans are calling on the government to pursue peace with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) so that they could all live in harmony and prosperity.

"Santa hindi na matuloy pa ang peace talks ng MILF at GRP para sa peace at harmony natin lahat sa Mindanao, wasak na naman ng giyera, kawang mga matatalo ang sundalo at gub (The hope there will be no more delays in the peace talks between the MILF and GRP for the sake of peace and harmony in Mindanao. We don't want war. Only the poor people are affected by chaos)," said Abu Bakr of Ansab Catubao in a text message sent to the Inquirer Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP).

As part of its "Dialogue Mindanao" program, the OPAPP has set up two text lines where the public can relay their opinions and views regarding the peace talks between the government and the MILF. The smart lines, the number is 0999-40-PEACE (73223). Sun Globe subscribers, it's 0917-40-PEACE (73223).

Today "Dialogue Mindanao" visits Baguio City, where hundreds of peace stakeholders are expected to join the forum arranged by OPAPP at the Mansilingan.

Anthony Adkisson, from Bang, Davao City, said Mindanaoans should close love for their homeland by helping the govern. meet work for peace.

"Mahirap ang Mindanao. Low progress. Stop fighting. Just cooperate. We do and here," Adkisson said in a text message.

Many also believe that the government should let Mindanaoans see Mindanao for. cause they know the real score there and not the people in the national government.

"Lagi ang nakikita ng national government ang mga negatibo sa Mindanao kaya walang nangyaring development (The government is not truthful to the people of Mindanao, that's why there is no development)," the sister said.

The "Dialogue Mindanao" program can be accessed through its official website (www.opapp.gov.ph/dialogue-mindanao), Face. book (www.facebook.com/groups/pag-usapangmindanao) and Twitter (twitter.com/peacemindanao).

Bombing suspect nabbed in General Santos City

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF Investigation (NBI) has taken into custody a suspected suicide bomber involved in bombings in General Santos City two years ago.

Lawyer Ricardo Diaz, chief of the NBI Counter-Terrorism Unit, said Mohammadali Mahmudmang Kano, alias "Boy Sepiasa," surrendered to the NBI on Thursday after he allegedly threw explosives at two soldiers in General Santos City on Oct. 30 and 31, 2008.

Kano was named one to Class 10 by operatives of the NBI Special on General Santos City, who accused the suspect for robbery and extortion.

Diaz said Kano was nabbed in an entrapment after a bounty was announced for the suspect tried to extort P800,000 from him.

"When the trader failed to give in to the suspect's demand, the latter set his property on fire. So the businessman went to the NBI, which set up an entrapment operation against the suspect," Diaz said, adding that Kano went on flight off arresting agents.

Kano suffered a gunshot wound in the foot following a gun fight with NBI agents during his arrest. Pino G. Sanvo

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Only 5 Pinoys held by Somalis

ONLY FIVE FILIpinos seafarers on two vessels remain in the hands of Somali pirates, the lowest number of Filipinos held hostage in international waters in the recent past.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said yesterday that two of the five Filipinos were released on the 109 St. James Park.

Foreign Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Belen Cuneja Jr. said the DFA continued to work with the local manning agencies of the ships' principals for the safe release of the remaining.

The crisis hunt That Union I was hijacked on Oct. 29, 2009, in the Indian Ocean, 370 kilometers north of Seychelles. The board were 23 Filipinos, all residents of Kidapawan, along with two Filipino and two Ukrainians.

The MV Jaime Bert, a United Kingdom-flagged vessel, was hijacked on Dec. 29, 2009, while transiting the International Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC) through the Gulf of Aden. It had a crew of 26, among them three Filipinos, Oscar Manlosa, one Georgian, seven Bulgarians, five Bulgarians, two Ukrainians, one Pole, six Indians and three Turks.

Coalition warships currently patrol the IRTC, shipping lanes, watching for pirates and listening for warning calls from vessels concerned about approaching boats.

All ships transiting the IRTC have been advised to follow a set of best practices issued by the International Maritime Organization.

These measures are designed to inform merchant vessels of pirates' tactics to help prevent unauthorized boarding. Best practices include preventive measures, using dark lighting, setting razor wire, electrical fences, fire hoses, and maneuverability and detection equipment. Cynthia D. Rebong

SALIKATAN TIME AGAIN! The USS Essex, an aircraft carrier of the United States Navy, docks at Subic Bay to unload personnel and war material for "Balikatan 2010," this year's edition of the joint military exercise held with the Philippine military at various sites around the country. The exercise will end on March 15. KIMBERLY ADA

Pinoys keeping the peace in Middle East get medals

By Cynthia D. Rebong

FOREIGN SECRETARY ALBERTO G. ROMULO on Friday led dignitaries in pinning United Nations service medals on 312 Filipino peacekeepers in the Golan Heights.

Romulo, together with Lt. Gen. Nicodemo C. Ferrer III, the first Filipino to head the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), decorated the Filipino soldiers for their commitment to keeping the peace in the Middle East.

"I congratulate the men and women of the 1st Philippine Peacekeeping Contingent to the Golan Heights for their outstanding responsibility as a member of the family of nations in helping keep the peace in this part of the world. You all have made us proud," Romulo said during the medal pinning ceremony in Camp Ziouani in Syria.

The Filipino peacekeepers are under Army Col. Wilfredo Medrigo Sr.

"The Filipinos are friends to all and it is my hope that the excellent relationship that the Philippines has nurtured over the years with the countries of the region would help make your job closer to UNDOF easier," Romulo said.

Romulo also paid tribute to Ecuador, for years deputy commander of the Philippine Battalion Corps, who formally assumed command of UNDOF on March 1, replacing Austrian Maj. Gen. Wolfgang Jilke.

Ecuador is the first Filipino to be appointed head of a UN peacekeeping mission and the second to be named commander of a UN peacekeeping force.

"His appointment is indeed a great honor for the Philippines and the Filipino people and clear proof that Philippine participation in peacekeeping operations has come a long way," Romulo said.

Considered one of the longest running UN peacekeeping missions, UNDOF was established by the Security Council in 1974 to end the Yom Kippur or Arab-Israeli War. It is mandated to supervise the ceasefire between Israel and Syria, oversee the disengagement of their forces, and patrol the area separating the two countries.

At present, UNDOF is made up of 1,042 troops from the Philippines, Austria, Canada, Croatia, India, Japan and Poland.

In addition to UNDOF, Romulo said Filipino peacekeepers are also serving in Afghanistan, Côte d' Ivoire, Darfur, Haiti, Kashmir, Liberia, Sudan and Timor-Leste. Filipino peacekeepers have also served in Iraq, Burundi, Georgia, Kosovo and Nepal.

With a total of 1,062 Filipino military and police personnel deployed overseas as of the end of January, the Philippines has emerged as the 12th-20th largest troop contributor.

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Ministry of Education (Singapore)

Cops ask judge to keep LP candidate Lim in jail

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE HAS asked a Makati City court to recall its order allowing detained senatorial candidate Lito Lim to travel abroad next month.

Citing lack of security personnel, the PNP Legal Service filed an urgent motion on Friday seeking the revocation of the temporary pass that Judge Elmo Alameda of Regional Trial Court Branch 150 had issued to Lim.

In filing the motion, the PNP also asked Alameda to cancel Lim's temporary travel pass to Cagayan de Oro City on March 8 and 9.

"Without being reminded nor debtor, this city Company, steadily comply in the urgency of the directive...to provide such number of security escorts to Lim," Supt. Gene Shipanin said in a three-page manifestation, a copy of which was obtained by the Inquirer yesterday.

Shipanin, head of the PNP Custodial Center in Camp Crame, Quezon City, said the detention center "does not have a sufficient number of security escorts" as his men "have been deployed for other court hearings and purposes."

Lim, who is being held at the jail for his role in the takeover of the Peninsula Manila in 2007, was supposed to attend a speaking engagement in Quezon City last Thursday after the court granted his request, but he was not allowed to leave his cell.

The former Army brigadier general, a Liberal Party guest senatorial candidate, accused his police custodians of arbitrarily denying Alameda's order.

But Chief Supt. Samuel Rivenda, PNP Headquarters Support Service (HSS) chief, said it was practically impossible for them to provide security for Lim as they only received a copy of the court order late Wednesday afternoon.

"The revised rules of court provides that the notice of hearing shall be served in such a manner as to ensure its receipt by the adverse party at least three days before the date of hearing," he pointed out. Marlon Ramos

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Make Every Day Exciting

No emergency powers for GMA; no quorum in Congress

From page A1

the effects of El Niño. He should not waste time in acting on the energy woes and other problems brought about by the dry spell," Cuadra said.

Bulacan Rep. Jonathan Sy-Alvarado said it was the duty of all members of Congress to attend a special session since they were convened since public officials until June 30. She said she would attend the special session if one was called.

Senate Majority Leader Miguel Zubiri, who is from Bukidnon, warned that the entire Mindanao could be plunged into darkness eventually if no immediate action is taken.

"We can't wait for a month or the whole of Mindanao will not be functional; even day and then, affect the economy there as well as the power and water situation," he said.

Zubiri said he had spoken to some opposition senators who told him they were willing to attend a special session if the agenda is limited only to calling the power czars to Mindanao.

He said he was also told by Palace officials that presidential advisers were still deciding whether to go ahead and call a special session given the approaching midterm of some congressional leaders.

No need

Opposition leaders are opposed to giving emergency powers to Ms Arroyo to solve the power crisis in Mindanao. Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday reminded that Ms Arroyo did not need such powers to address the crisis.

Yesterday, deputy spokesperson Ricardo Saludo clarified that the government never asked for emergency powers for the President.

Saludo said what the Department of Energy sought was for the President to declare a power crisis in Mindanao so she could invoke a provision in the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) that will lift a prohibition for the government through the National Power Corp., the state power generator, to engage in the business of generating power.

"We simply seek the law, we need Congress' approval so we can invoke Section 71 of Epira that would allow the government to contract additional [generating] capacity," he said in an interview with the state-run dzRB radio.

Leasing gensets

The DOE has recommended that in order to plug the crisis, the Palace can be allowed to lease modular generators sets that would provide 140 megawatts of electricity for Mindanao.

With her statement that she was adopting Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes' recommendation, the President has already declared a power crisis in Mindanao. Saludo said that's enough.

"The power step is to watch for Congress to enact the [emergency] so going about leasing the modular generators with for Mindanao, Saludo said.

Asked if there were options other than those which would require Congress to hold a special session, Saludo said there were but "there were not big enough to solve the [emergency]."

"The bulk of the gap needed to be filled will come from the 140 megawatts of power. It's not the modular generators," he said.

Quorum problem

Earlier yesterday, in an interview on Ysa Presidential Sheik de Guzman's "Para Sa Iyo, Bayan" radio program, Nograles also expressed his concern about not being able to muster a quorum in the House.

Zubiri, who was also interviewed on the program, said the Senate leadership, meaning he and Reyes, was prepared to hold a special session in order to help Mindanao.

Zubiri said the people of Mindanao were "fed up" about the bureaucrats that they have been experiencing since last month, hoping for up to 12 hours a day.

Nograles noted it would be quite easy for the Senate to gain close 13 senators for a special session but the House has to have at least 206 congressmen to form a quorum.

13 absent ladies needed

"We need 206 warm bodies and I contact senior Dad," Nograles told De Guzman.

"The Bicol team members are probably already on vacation and the wider bureaucracy are campaigning," he said, adding that he had already relayed this concern to Reyes.

Another concern was the limited time Comelec and the president has to declare the state in Mindanao.

Reyes, who was also a guest on the program, clarified that the government was not seeking emergency powers for the President to address the power crisis but only special powers for the state to generate additional power capacity.

Earth Hour

Reyes urged consumers to observe power-saving tips at home or at work to reduce demand, especially during peak hours.

On March 27, Reyes said the country will join the rest of the world in observing "Earth Hour" by turning off electricity from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., with the 200 MAR of lists in the singing point.

DOE explores other options not needing Congress approval

By Aisa B. Reyes

AS THE POWER CRISIS IN MINDANAO continued without letup, the Department of Energy said it was exploring other stopgap measures that would enable it to address the worsening shortages without the need for approval from Congress.

Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes said these are measures that can be implemented without having to invoke Section 71 of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) that would allow the government through the National Power Corp. (Napocor) to regain generation and sell electricity.

The Epira, enacted in 2001, which deregulated the power sector, provided for the privatization of Napocor, the state-owned power generator. To generate additional power capacity, Napocor would require special authority from Congress.

According to Reyes, the DOE is preparing to implement a supply augmentation program under which big industrial firms or commercial enterprises that generate their own electricity requirements will be allowed to sell their excess capacities to those who would need it.

During peak hours, these big industries may also put their own fuel-generating sets instead of using electricity from the Mindanao Grid, for which they will be compensated.

Info on energy conservation

Reyes said private power generators and project proponents have been asked to state if they can provide for fuel-switched and when the additional capacities can be made available.

"Also, we are continuing our information-education campaign on energy conservation and energy efficiency," Reyes added.

But the energy secretary could not say for certain that these measures alone would be enough to ensure adequate power supply before the long rainy season of May to October.

Mindanao, in particular, has been badly hit by the El Niño weather disturbance, which has caused water levels in the dams to recede.

As of March 6, the power supply deficit in Mindanao further worsened to 571.6 MW, according to data from the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP), the private corporation that operates the country's transmission network.

About 53 percent of Mindanao's power supply comes from hydroelectric dams, making the country's second largest island particularly vulnerable to a prolonged dry season.

Special authority needed

A high-ranking NGCP official said the special authority that can be granted to the Napocor is the only "immediate and workable means at this time" way to ensure that Mindanao, along with the rest of the country, will have sufficient and stable power supply in May.

The official explained that the special authority will allow the government to import diesel generator sets that could provide about 1 MW or 1,000 each of electricity.

In an earlier congressional hearing, Reyes said that should the government be granted this special authority, Napocor would need P5.5 billion to import modular gensets that could provide 140 MW of additional capacity for Mindanao.

Feed-in-tariff not an option

If Congress fails to grant Napocor this special authority, the NGCP official said the only other option is for government to implement feed-in-tariffs. This means big industrial users would be compelled contractually to buy excess power from the Mindanao Grid, for which they will be compensated.

"Ok, the government could declare a holiday on the so-called electric days coming to the shortfall, in such a way that those big businesses will not operate so that the electricity that they consume can be diverted instead to the provinces," the official explained.

In a related development, the DOE has ordered a six-day "Shedding Holidays" for power companies, the "transmission service providers and all distribution utilities to ensure adequate and reliable electric power supply in the country."

Circular to generation firms

According to the circular, all generation companies should "ensure the availability of its generating facilities at all times sufficient only to technical constraints duly communicated by the system operator."

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For a song, Kris endorses Tito Sotto

From page A1

of the Democratic People's Coalition.

And in the ad network aired on, Erik said her choice of Bayanihan revealed like Honorable "Bayanihan" stars of the ABS-CBN network, while Jinkee is cited "Kapuso" of the GMA 7 network. His political comments include featuring Tito and Boy are aired during breaks in GMA 7's popular television show "Eat Bulaga."

Still, here's the story: Some got Erik to endorse him in a song—literally.

TITO SOTTO

KRIS AQUINO

'Magkaisa' composer

Remember "Magkaisa," the original Filipino song that spread the message of the late democracy leader Corazon Aquino ("Kris' mother) at the height of the Erap-Pro Power revolt in 1998?

The song was quickly composed and recorded by Erik at a gift to mark the heavier early taking of Presidential Aquino at the end of the four-day revolt.

During the first 100 days of Aquino's revolutionary government, the song was exclusively airtime in every radio and TV station.

The song enjoyed a brief, minor revival in August last year, when Aquino died. Her funeral had turned into a massive outpouring of the people power spirit of '86.

As Sotto recalls it, shortly after the funeral, he got a call from Erik, who was considering a CD compilation of songs that Erik have dedicated to her mother.

"When she made the album [about her mom last year], she wanted a duet with him," Sotto recalled Magkaisa'."). I said, 'by all means,'" Sotto said.

'Yes' immediately

Sotto came when Erik's public relations team was brainstorming about which celebrity to choose to endorse his comeback gig for a theater tour.

"Boy and Cebuanos production executive] Tom Tenorio agreed that we should choose one who is well loved by the public and effective in delivering messages," Sotto recalled. "Kris' name was the first that popped up—he liked Mr. Sotto, Kris, show-biz-wise, boy-wise and Manila.

Ayanda, close to him on real-off camera, promised to ask Kris if she would be willing to endorse Sotto.

When he did, she said 'yes' immediately. Sotto was told.

"Eh, sinil 'of course.' Gay saw the inspiration for the song and Kris knows this. Even if she and Noynoy were not distantly related to my wife Helen, she would have done it for her sister," Sotto said of Filipina.

"I found Kris on. I'm happy to do this' during the recording. We didn't have to convince her," he added.

Oath-taking gift to Cory

Recalling her successful re-song, Sotto said Erik has been dazzled to compose the music, while the lyrics with Cha help of a colleague, record the song and present it to President Aquino as an oath-taking gift in February 1986.

"It a matter of days, it was on air. I gave the song a copy to Cory [Aquino]—he liked it, Erik, Kris, show-biz-wise, boy-wise and Manila.

Sotto chose an unknown singer Shina Lim to record "Magkaisa" because "I didn't want people to think I was promoting my [her own singer]. I wanted the song to have its own identity." Brother Gil participated as a male back-up singer and even that was not announced to the public.

Young shaker called to shape global future

From page A1

The Junior achievers belong to the 40-and-younger set of executives, entrepreneurs and industrial pioneers whose ideas "represent the voice of the future and the hopes of the next generation," according to Klaus Schwab, WEF founder and executive chair.

197 winners worldwide

The Filipinos share the honor with 197 people from 70 countries, including YouTube co-founder Steven Chen, Twitter co-founder Evan Williams, Google vice president Marissa Mayer, professional tennis player Roger Federer, fashion designer Vera Wang and Olympic champion Yao Ming. Also included are the founders of Pratham, the Youth that helps disadvantaged children, and singer Wyclef Jean who put up the Yele Haiti Foundation, which implements projects to help the earthquake-stricken nation.

The honorees, nominated by groups outside the WEF, have a record of extraordinary achievements, an impressive record in the public eye, and a commitment to enhance the public good, Jeff Immelt said.

Fresh perspective

Chosen from almost 5,000 candidates, the 2010 Young Global Leaders will join the annual WEF summit that aims to give a better understanding of global challenges. They are encouraged to learn from their peers and come up with innovative solutions to the world's pressing problems.

For 30-year-old Dorda, the recognition represents a chance to gain a fresh, global perspective as she tackles issues that she feels are important to the country and the world.

It also gives her the opportunity to network with people from other countries who are in a position to help.

What is humbled and privileged to have been chosen among millions of other Filipinos as a Young Global Leader for 2010 because it means that now, my voice counts in other global arenas and has, we have a role to play in terms of really shaping policy when it comes to the issues of health, education, women and children," she says.

"It also changes your perspective. Suddenly you're not just locked in your own country now you have a global arena," she adds.

Heart-tugging stories

As a reporter and host for ABS-CBN's "Failon Ngayon," Dorda is a veteran of the power of her medium. Among her body of work, she is most proud of her 2009 documentary about children in jail, which won a Broadcast award.

Her stories on children and health issues are closest to her heart, as they helped shape parenthood policy.

"These are stories that really tug at my heart. And give me purpose as a storyteller," says Dorda, a mother of four.

All the world have her way she would tackle stories that explain to us, that have people to action. At the same time, she realizes that in the end, there is no substitute to hard work and headlines.

We are the change

But industry leaders can do so much more by supporting reports that matter to their focus. Dorda simply puts attention, Dorda says.

"I realize we are an entertainment-driven country but I do believe that we have the power to change that," she says.

Call to action

Dorda says the WEF recognition is not just another entry to her 40-year impressive career. It is a call to action and a push in the right direction.

"It's unique and special in the sense that there's no trophy and it doesn't mean I am the best," she says.

"It shows that they believe in my body of work. That what I have done in my young professional life can really make a difference in the global community. I pray I can continue to do something relevant. But I am a bit of service-conscious," she adds.

UP student regent: I was allowed to vote in PGH poll

By Marlon Ramos
Reporter / mramos@...

SAN PEDRO, LAGUNA—THE STUDENT regent's chance vote in the election of administration rose at the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) sparked last week's walkout and has filed a motion to drop the University of the Philippines Board of Regents (BOR) from nullifying it.

UP student regent Ellamico Bañez said that before the controversial election of the PGH director on Dec. 18, the BOR had deliberated and voted on a motion of UP president Emerlinda R. Roman to allow her right to vote on the ground that she was not always fully student of the state university.

Bañez, who was not enrolled this school year because she had completed her academic requirements ahead of schedule and was awaiting graduation, said the result of the deliberation was in favor of allowing her to vote until the term on her university "residency status" was reached.

"They agreed in this and participated willingly in that election," Bañez said, referring to what she called the "Malacañang bloc" composed of Roman and three other regents appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo, who voted against her right to vote.

In that board election, Dr. Jose Gonzales won by one vote over incumbent hospital director Dr. Gerardo Alfiler to win the PGH directorship.

The century-old PGH is the teaching hospital of the UP College of Medicine.

But on Feb. 25, the BOR decided that Bañez was ineligible to vote and nullified the results of the Dec. 18 election. It called for a new election which resulted in a 6-5 vote for Dr. Enrique Domingo, the hospital's deputy director for administration.

"It was surprising," said Bañez, adding that the BOR, on the motion of the "Malacañang bloc," had removed Domingo from the shortlist of nominees during the first election due to "lack of tenure."

"They were the ones who took him [Domingo] out [of the list] and now they installed him as director. There is a power play going on inside the BOR," said Bañez.

"They did not want Jaque [Dr. Jose Gonzales] because he was critical of the PGP-said Jose Solante medical secretary.

It was also Bañez's turn to question the validity of the votes of the three Malacañang appointees. Their basis in "acting and not regular capacity" had already expired.

"They were appointed in 2008. Based on the administrative code of 1987, temporary appointments made by GMA [Ms. Arroyo] should not exceed one year. And they (Malacañang appointees) had never surrendered this to us," he said.

He said Roman later recommended a final look of two years to the appointees.

According to the BOR, Bañez, a senior student at El Los Baños in Laguna, had failed to file an application for residency, albeit a month late on December because of his many activities in the student regent.

He said the UP administration does not only using this technical and he sees "bare excuse" to reject her from the board.

"There were two students at UP-LB who filed their residencies as late as Feb. 5 and 15 and their applications were accepted. How come they would not process my papers? "But I is active," she said.

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MERALCO

Once upon a time a poor boy lived in this old Tondo house

From page A1

It is hardly the kind of house that a passerby would think was once the home of one of the country's few billionaires (before he snatch it with its real estate), or a place that once sheltered a boy who now wants to be president.

The door to its interiors was locked when the Inquirer came one recent Thursday.

In the frenzied campaign for the Philippine presidency, the house has become a political weapon. It was where Villar and talk show host Boy Abunda filmed an advertisement to show that the Nacionalista Party standard-bearer came from an impoverished past.

ON THE STREET WHERE HE LIVED still stands the old Hilongos-avenue Villar house in Tondo at the corner of Marinero Extension and Sta. Maria streets. RICHARD

INSIDE OUT The only evidence crying foul is the Marinero house are Villar's niece Marilyn Bautista-Reyes and her family. She serves as caretaker though her uncle, the presidential candidate, has given her family a home in Parañaque. EV CANDA

Future museum?

The talk among Villar's neighbors, like Eduardo Sotto, is that the house would be turned into a museum. A retired Constabulary soldier, Sotto, 69, now drives a rental van.

As Villar harangues around the country on a promise of rescuing Filipinos from poverty, Sotto and his fellow residents see the house, Villar's supposedly shabby nook on the ground floor of the former and brother's son-in-law, Jhaver Reyes, a security guard on the sidewalk, reminded of the days when flowing in a nearby estero and of the flies swarming around them.

They seem to be the sort of people Villar would need to rescue if he should win office.

The Villar house is one of several standing in a 300-square-meter lot on that corner of Marinero Extension. Neighbors say Villar has bought the whole lot and that the other families still living there have each been paid P50,000 to give up their rights to the place.

"That's just the talk around here," one of the residents said.

Some of the families have left but others are hanging on.

Poverty everywhere

Steps away from the house, a man and a small family take naps on dirty mattresses spread out on the sidewalk, unmindful of the dirty water flowing in a nearby estero and of the flies swarming around them.

They seem to be the sort of people Villar would need to rescue if he should win office.

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"That's just the talk around here," one of the residents said.

Some of the families have left but others are hanging on.

Villar's generosity

Villar's generosity toward his Tondo relatives, like his cousin Jhaver Reyes, a security guard on the sidewalk, reminded of the days when flowing in a nearby estero and of the flies swarming around them.

Neighbors say the relatives have received medical help from Villar or have given houses in Cavite, where he built his hometown low-cost housing.

Reyes said the senator had given her family a house in Parañaque but she chose to stay in Marinero so her children would be near their school.

"He has all the names of our relatives listed down because one can't really expect him to remember all of us because we're a big family," Reyes said in Filipino. "You can go to him and ask for help. Other times, it's he who offers help."

Reyes said he himself had been a recipient of Villar's generosity even if they never really were close friends. In their teens, he said, he and Villar used to buy crushed ice together in the months he then made out Eck businesses.

Reyes said that when Villar was still a congressman, he wanted the down payment on a Camella house and that Reyes had bought for his family.

A job at the Palace

Still, there is no excitement, at least like Tondo's, among the huddled van drivers over the thought that the boy who was once their own could be the next president.

Could it be that the overlong hunt has numbed their enthusiasm about the election, or that they have become jaded at seeing every television personality trying to make?

Maybe if he wins, he could give us a job in Malacañang's motor pool, or make us guards — us in the Palace?," one of the men said, raising laughter. "Pende na rin magkaroon ng guts ng Malacañang. Di ba, sir (referring to the reporter)?"

Will they vote for their landlord from Tondo? The men stopped and looked at each other.

"I am still thinking about it," Reyes said.

Maybe May 10 will provide an answer to whether the old, grimy house on Marinero will end up as a museum, or turn once again into an eyesore.

Sisters' act for bachelor brother makes RP electoral history

From page A1

option. "We're thinking [of] how to win."

Apart from traveling to various points of the country to make a pitch for their brother, Belbo and Pinky are helping raise funds for his campaign. They are also tasked with saying "no" to certain dominant running in the millions of pesos that Noynoy refuses to accept.

Gemma Elsa "Pel" Aquino-Ilor watches over campaign expenses. The youngest of the brood, Kris Aquino-Yap, has pulled out all the stops for her brother—selling her house, paying for his initial TV ads and getting her close friends to endorse him.

'He might die'

It was not like that in the beginning.

When, after the death last August of their mother, the late former President Corazon Aquino, they saw the Liberal Party in tatters, they were the first to say that Noynoy—the three sisters vehemently insisted.

They feared he might be killed, or that they—Belbo, Pinky and Pel—would again be dragged into the limelight, as they were during their mother's presidency.

"When we were trying to convince him not to run, we were like: 'Hey, listen, pity us, sir. You have to spare ... If your memories, want to kill you, there's only us, our husbands, and kids," Belbo said.

She added, "I thought he might die [or get assassinated]. I told him, 'Please go on a retreat. At least I know that should anything happen, you're OK.'"

Belbo said she was concerned about what a grueling next dirty campaign would do to their own families. She said her and her sisters' children were also affected by the mudslinging thrown about.

"I told him, 'Kuya noynoy, we've been there and you know [what it's like]. We may just quit, not arguing," she recalled.

Belbo said Noynoy had initially been against his running for presidential because he was a long-time supporter of Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas' own presidential plans. Roxas was then the LP standard-bearer.

She said her brother began to seriously consider the idea "when people he admired and looked up to told, 'Hey, you have to.'"

'They're so private'

But at the time ambivalent rebellion sisters were going through and also told Noynoy about their concerns, according to Pinky.

"[Her] argument was: 'Hey, we love are OK but the rules of them, they're so private, nowhere normal life," Pinky said.

She said jokingly that when Kris pressured their dying mother that they would campaign for Noynoy if she'd relent, she did so "without one pressure, one."

It was the night of July 20 and their mother, who was then battling cancer, had been administered sedatives to lessen the pain she was experiencing.

And Pinky: "Suddenly her eyes opened and she began to talk. I was alone with Kris.

"I said, 'Eh, mom's talking.' I could not make it out. It was just her lips moving, and [I heard] Kris screaming the word Ed.

"She said, 'Mmm, si Noynoy nalang. I'm going to campaign. Di ba si Ryan, Pauli?'"

And Pinky recalled her sister's surprised expression.

'Panic time'

Belbo said Kris was then thinking about 2013, when Noynoy's first term in the Senate ends.

"When we were trying to convince him not to run, he was like: 'Hey, I'm going to campaign. Di ba si Ryan, Pauli?'" Belbo said, laughing.

And then Roxas announced on Sept. 1 that he was no longer running for president and was stepping aside in Noynoy's favor.

"It was like panic time for us, and we talked to Ate Pinky, he said. 'I can't do! He was cheering us pala," Pinky said.

After Noynoy made up his mind to seek the presidency, his sisters—except for Pel, who held out until hours before he announced his decision on Sept. 8—committed him their support.

Did even tried to solicit LP campaign manager Butch Abad's support, but it was too late.)

"We felt that we were just being selfish. We were thinking that because he has no wife, we will have to [campaign] for him," Belbo said.

Except for Pel, Pinky said, the sisters were a wee bit hard to tell you) what's inside [us]. Whatever you decide, we'll support you."

"WOMAN POWER Belbo, Via and Pinky: "When we got into campaigning, we've seen it in us." ERIKA DE LA CRUZ

Jars of coins

Pinky said Noynoy's supporters donned her and her sisters "gangsta [jeer] filled with some" for his campaign expenses.

"We remembered mom's stories of when she was campaigning," she said, referring to the life sentiments published Cory Perlas' fundraising drive for Ninoy and her's son against Ferdinand Marcos.

Pinky said a priest in Mindoro, and even a bishop, contributed a monthly allowance to their brother's campaign.

"The priest wrote, 'Your dream is my dream. Your hope is my hope. I've worked in Puerto with the poor. I know what corruption does to the poor,'" Pinky said, quoting the priest's letter.

She said she had the letters framed "because it was so beautiful, and I put it in Noy's bedroom so that in his very tired days, it will really help."

Belbo said she was uncomfortable with fundraising.

"I'm never ask anyone. Other people ask for us. But even just accepting it is embarrassing. And we really don't have properties to sell, unlike mom and dad. I don't have former Sen. Benigno Aquino K. I believe," she said.

According to Belbo, their brother is "so strict" about campaign contributions.

She said the food is friend who is now someone who wanted to make a donation for Noynoy's first campaign for the House of Representatives, and he turned it down because he had doubts about the would-be contributor.

"He said, 'Don't let the person buy face. Just say we don't need it at this time," she said.

Belbo said they had turned down "millions" because those fell short of Noynoy's guidelines on contributions.

"So there we asked a priest. Father, is it OK? And he said that is long as there are no conditions and no promises, [it's OK]. Not for his guidelines. If he feels the money is ill-gotten, he does not take it," she said.

'It's destiny'

Belbo said she and her sisters become more organized after the January surveys showed that Noynoy was in a statistical tie with the Nacionalista Party standard-bearer Sen. Manuel Villar.

(The results of the February survey of Pulse Asia, released on Friday, had Noynoy at 36 percent and Villar at 30 percent.)

Pinky said they had to come forward and campaign for Noynoy now that their mother was gone.

She said Ted also said that they were lucky that they were only facing the challenge after their mother's passing.

Recalled Belbo: "Mom had sleepless nights when Noynoy was running for the Senate. We'd get texts from friends. They'd say, 'Just came from Malacañang and we were told. What is true that you're helping Noy?' Sa shoulder's eh."

She said that despite the sleepless nights, their mother would pray and even give them the same advice—"Ito accept whatever God's will is."

'Let's go for broke'

"She always had a way to make you feel, 'Ah, why worry about it?'" Belbo said. "Keep telling Pink, 'Wo-how my lif Noynoy does not make it, maybe God has something else. So I will not get stressed about all these things."

Pinky said she and her sisters had discussed the matter and agreed that "mom and dad never took the easy route."

She added: "So I told my siblings: Both mom and dad never wanted their lives to say challenge. We're here to take. Let's go for broke."

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Sensitivity in reporting up at meet

TIMOR-LESTE, SENIOR JOURnalists from Asia will gather in Indonesia on March 8-11 for the East Asia Regional Media Programme aimed at increasing awareness of reporting complex issues, particularly in cases of conflict.

The New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the European Union are sponsoring the conference.

Journalists from major media outlets in the 16 member countries of the East Asia Summit, which includes New Zealand, are participating, including six from the Philippines, one from the Inquirer.

"We have seen examples of how media reporting on sensitive issues, particularly in situations of conflict and terrorism, can exacerbate tensions," said Chris Langley, New Zealand's chargé d'affaires to Jakarta.

"This is specially the case where reporting defies true cultural and religious issues but is not well founded or balanced," he said. Cynthia D. Salcos

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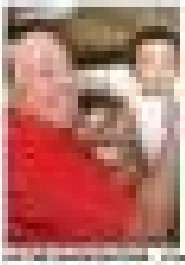
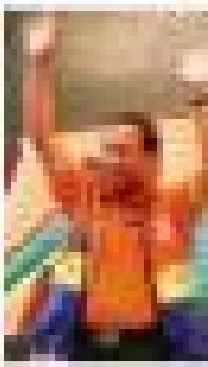
On the trail with Dick, Gibe ...





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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Moderate your ambition

EDITORIAL

AS IS OFTEN THE CASE, AS GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS bicker, the citizenry is taking matters into its own hands. In Mindanao, people affected by the shortage of electricity are investing in generators and generally adapting themselves to the situation. Meanwhile, President Macapagal-Arroyo has yet to sign a proclamation proposed by Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes Jr. that would allow her to invoke the Ilijan (Electric Power Industry Reform Act) provisions allowing the purchase or lease of generators to a stop-gap measure. In any case, the Executive and Legislative branches are arguing over the usefulness of calling Congress to a special session to give the President emergency powers in the mold of the Ramos model. They are also arguing about shareholdings, power barges, the scheduling of maintenance for power plants and whom to blame for profiteering—or failing to predict—till Feliks and its effects.

The President and her people, for their part, are trying to prove they're relevant and can still muster political will. Her critics, on the other hand, are shouting over the possibility that the power crisis in Mindanao is being exaggerated to open the door for midnight deals. And the public simply has to keep trying to get on with its business.

The next Congress should find a better way to engage in oversight so that senators and congressmen don't have to keep asking rhetorical questions in public when they ought to have inbetweenness or their fingertips from a responsible executive department.

At this point, ameliorating, not solving, the energy threshold is the executive branch's first order of business, knowing full well that any resolution it signs will be scrutinized by the next Congress.

There are four main tasks involved in any stop-gap measure: that the President decides to undertake:

The first is to ensure that the elections aren't marred by a proliferation of brownouts. Any power failure will be taken to be politically motivated, considering the country's long experience with government's penchant for election-related power failures dating back to the Marcos years. Through the monitoring of the voting machines and the Comelec hotline around the public that steadily history power for the machines still last several hours), there is also transmission to consider; and the problem thing to do is to make every allowance so that power would be available nationwide at least through the 48 hours the Comelec says it needs between the voting and the announcing of national results.

The second is that business has to continue and this is particularly true not only for our dwindling manufacturing base but also for energy-hungry industries (e.g., BPOs), even if many of those firms have standby generators. Add to this the problematics of stopping centers that require vast amounts of electricity—and to which the population increasingly flees during brownouts or to the temperature rises. A couple of weeks ago, we urged government to consult with business groups, large and small, to get their cooperation in regulating the consumption of power. No such consultations have been made.

The third is related to the first: government must coordinate to provide services and those services rely on energy-hungry systems, such as the various electronic databases for various permits and the filing of taxes. The toll that power outages—particularly the unannounced—take on government electronic equipment (never well maintained to begin with) will be considerable. Up to the Marcos years, even the operating hours of government offices were changed by a presidential proclamation every summer. A similar measure, both to conserve energy and to safeguard the health and well-being of government workers increasingly trapped in stifling, windowless office buildings, should be considered, taking into account as well that this is a period of political transition when everyone has to be working overtime to keep providing services while preparing for the upcoming change in administration.

And finally there is we, the people, the millions inconvenienced in Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao, who can only quietly bear the brunt of power failures and the toll this is taking on livelihoods, personal appliances and the health of the very young and the very old. The routine demands even non-sense measures now, not big-ticket projects entered into by an administration devoid of public trust.

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The furtive law

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

DURING MARTIAL LAW, MANY LAWS AND decrees were not published as required by Article 2 of the Civil Code providing in full:

"Art. 2. Laws shall take effect after fifteen days following the completion of their publication in the Official Gazette, unless it is otherwise provided. This Code shall take effect one year after such publication."

Marcos said his edicts did not give much attention to the code, excepting such decrees they did not want the people to know something about, among these was the General Appropriation Act for FY 1975, which was questioned by Sen. Lorenzo M. Tañada, chairman P. Sumulong and several distinguished jurists.

The answer of the government to the petitioners was mostly evasive and centered on the clause "unless it is otherwise provided" which they said means that the law did not refer to the requirement of publication.

The *GAA* court was hardly tested on this point. Only four were unequivocally in favor of publication in the Official Gazette, six others felt that publication could be made elsewhere if the people were sufficiently informed, one simply reserved his vote with no answer, another acknowledged the need for publication but without saying when it should be made.

After the mischievous study of the question, the "new" court came to a common conclusion. It held that the clause "unless it is otherwise provided" referred to the date of effectivity and not the publication, which in any event could not even be omitted. The choice does not mean that the legislature cannot make the law effective upon its approval or any other date without its previous publication.

Publication is indispensable but the legislature may in its discretion decide that the usual 15-day period shall be shortened or extended. An example, as pointed out by then Chief Justice Claudio Teehankee in his separate concurrence to the decision, is the general Order No. 1 which did not become effective after 15 days from its publication in the Official Gazette. The general order did not apply because it was otherwise provided.

It is not correct to say that under the disputed clause publication may be dispensed with altogether. The reason is that such construction would offend that genuine freedom as it would deny to the public knowledge of the laws that are supposed to govern it. Surely, if the legislature could validly provide that a law shall become effective immediately upon its approval notwithstanding the lack of publication (or after an unreasonably short period after publication), it is not unlikely that persons not aware of it would be penalized for a breach. And they would be no excuse or a failure to comply with it for simply because they did not know of its existence. Significantly, this is not true only of non-penal laws as is commonly supposed. One can think of many non-penal measures, like a new tax prescription, which must be communicated to the persons they may affect before they can begin to operate.

Pro hac vice the point that every person knows the law, which of course presupposes that the law has been published if the presumption is to have any legal justification at all. It is no less important to remember that Section 6 of the Bill of Rights recognizes "the right of the people to information on matters of public concern," and this certainly applies to, among others, laws and indeed especially, rules and regulations of the government.

In conclusion, and to express clearly my point, let me present the motion of a much respected Tribunal, the Warren which corrected the second dirty Marcos who wielded his noble engine on his dirty throne. The "new" Court consisted of Chief Justice Teehankee and Justices Abad, Yap, Fernan, Narvasa, Melencio-Herrera, Alampay Gutierrez, Cruz, Paras and Feliciano.

This is what they said:

"The days of the secret laws and unpublished decrees are over. This is once again an open society with all the acts of the government subject to public scrutiny and liable always to public experience. The time to be silent on country is to remain democratic, with increasingly needing to the people and all government authority emanating from them.

"Although they have delegated the power of legislation, they retain the authority to oversee the work of their delegates and to ratify or reject it according to their lights through their freedoms of expression, and their right of suffrage. This they cannot do if the acts of the legislature are concealed.

"Laws must come out in the open in the clear light of the uncensored of shedding in the shadows with their dark, deep secrets. Mysterious pronouncements and rumored rules cannot be recognized as binding unless their existence and contents are confirmed by a valid publication intended to make full disclosure and give proper notice to the people. The furtive law is like a sculptured robot that cannot hear, penny or can endow the naked blade is drawn."

Concrete

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

LIE YOU HEAD THE STORY ABOUT A THIEF who was caught stealing a truckload of cement? He was apprehended right away. Why? Because the evidence was very concrete!

* * *

In today's Gospel (Lk. 15, 1-9), Jesus tells the parable of the Rejoice that was given all the chance in heart-beak but didn't. He too are to hear fruits, and our Lenten experience must be concrete. It is not enough to say "I'm sorry" and go on sinning anyway.

* * *

Righteousness is who you are before God and not who you are compared to others. Let none hold into the air of self-righteousness and spiritual pride. The best starting point of humility—I am a sinner, but you, O God, are loving and merciful.

* * *

God has a hard time dealing with self-righteous people who think that they deserve His love precisely because they think they are good. Remember the story of the prodigal son and the righteous one? The forgiven one became grateful while the good one became resentful.

* * *

May everything we do in life, especially this Lenten season be borne out of gratitude and love for Him who loves us tremendously and who has forgiven us so many times unconditionally. A proud person does not know what gratitude really means. A "self-made" person, for that matter, has no one or to whom grace, meaning given, is all about.

* * *

Instead of thinking of God as the all-seeing mayor up there, complete with binoculars and camera, why don't we say this more as a real companion and a father-with a heart down here?

* * *

In the interest of more on than 900 swindling mass-misery-extremely Aurelio Ramirez said to his wife: "I love you. Acting all these years." To which Aurora Ramirez simply replied: "I loved you twice as much all those years!" There is. There's the smart for a relationship to grow and last, because has to win many. Otherwise it's only matter we are talking about. Love is the constant giving, the extra mile, and the giving it one more smile.

* * *

We can never reciprocate God's love. God is always the generous one. He is the first who reaches out, and He never stops. He continues to love and generously. This realization should lead us to humility and gratitude toward Him and toward our fellow-sinner brothers and sisters.

* * *

By overcompromising drought in many places in our country these days. Let us pray for rain to water our plants and trees again. The absence or lack of water affects not only the quantity but also the quality of the fruits of the earth. There is another kind of drought that we can experience, and that is spiritual drought. Let us make sure that we do not neglect nourishing our souls.

* * *

Are you one of those people who just "exhaust the soil"? Are you just all grandeur and pleasure? Are you contributing to the betterment of this world or are you just scrapping space? As economic once said, service is not sent for one day in this world. The former answers, but we check if we are paying our rent.

* * *

For Lent, why don't you have a "project" which only you and the Father would know? Do something good, give up something bad, and for this all be done in secret, and you will experience a joy which the world cannot give, not take away.

* * *

Today the Lord reminds us that He is a God who gives us many chances, but He also is a God who will make final reckoning and judgment. This is a warning for those who think they will get away with all their wrongdoing, four day will come. Our consolation as a consolation for those who hope in God's goodness and love. Next day not, will come.

* * *

By the way, to answer I never possess a fruit or vegetable? Someone once said. But if it a fruit because when you eat was much of it, the seeds of time "Fruit!" comes out?

* * *

Please do not forget that one of the fruits of the Spirit is joy. We need people who fill us from our darkness, and remind us that life is not all about work and cares. Yes, we need people who point to the "big picture"—that there is a God who is in control, who is the father of us all.

* * *

Let us take time to examine the kind of life we are living. Generally speaking, does our faith make us better persons, better citizens of this country and of this world? Our faith must bear fruits that are concrete, and that will endure and last.

* * *

If you are going through any kind of pressing right now, be reminded with the thought that pressing leads to enlightening. All our hard work, trials and sufferings, so we say, will bear fruit someday. Praying, hoping that all of us will live fruitful lives.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, remind me that my faith is not complete if I have not acted on Jesus.

Why did Comelec junk two poll safeguards?

ALL THIS TIME, I HAVE WRITTEN MOSTLY about unnerving delays in the Comelec timetable and the shadowy need for accuracy in the printing and delivery of the automated ballots and in the selection and delivery of the PCOS machines. Readers asked why I have not taken up possible computer glitches and counter-code worries, transmission failures and hacking. The reports:

Overlooked safeguards: I have left these to such issues as others who are more technically qualified than I am (like the Center for People Empowerment in Governance or CenPEG). If it is right to be unnecessarily alarmed, the automated elections are more than adequately covered and could create a nationwide failure of election, not just in some localities as I have feared.

That said, let me however take up two technical points that have now been raised by anyone. First, Comelec tabled this Verifiet Lube, a 15-hour software testing campaign that will verify the source code, but it did not ask for the certification of the two additional software that back up this code. Without such certification, the entire system could be vulnerable to wholesale cheating. Will the National Science Development Board accept the Comelec certification (that includes those two other vital software)?

Second, Comelec inexplicably turned off in all the PCOS machines the ultraviolet scanning device that detects the ultraviolet code embedded in the ballots. This is similar to the ultraviolet image embedded in our peso bills. Members say a unique ultraviolet light to detect this image and to sort out fake peso bills.

The PCOS machines were equipped with that "ultraviolet light" to reject counterfeit ballots. Why did Comelec turn off this detecting device in all the PCOS machines? If it is simply designed the color of the ballots boxes from dear to black on the alleged ground that clear boxes would allow sunshine to erase the ultraviolet markings on the ballots.

Indeed, why did Comelec junk these two vital technical safeguards?

WITH DUE RESPECT

Armando V. Pangalangan

Manual count of automated ballots. Here's another question persistently raised by readers. If, for any reason, the PCOS machines fail to function, Comelec has a back-up plan: the manual count of the automated ballots. Isn't this self-contradictory: using automation failure?

With due respect to Comelec, I say "No." The back-up plan assumes that the ballots have been printed correctly and delivered correctly to the correct precinct at the correct time, that the correct ones and the timing of the ballot printing and delivery are precisely the big logistical fit. The automated ballots and the PCOS machines are "paired specific." If the ballots are inaccurately printed (say, some candidates are omitted), or are not delivered properly and on time, no election would take place. Then, there would be no "shocked" Filipino to vent.

In contrast, the manual ballots are "generic." The candidates' names are not pre-printed. The voters write down the names of the candidates on the blank spaces of the ballots. So even if, at the last minute, the Supreme Court orders the inclusion of candidates earlier disqualified by Comelec, no failure would ensue because voters are simply write the candidates' names.

Incidentally, these little known counting canvassers have been named to deliver the PCOS machines. Why were the big contracts with undisputed track records not selected for these very vital jobs?

Question of a friend: When there was a failure in field an election at a town or in a province, he sees Comelec Chairman Bernardo Pardo issued a study ordered the calling of a new election on the next day. Can that be done now?

Answer: In case of a failure to deliver the correct printed ballots to the correct precincts, an election can be held anytime by or week is not possible. To repeat, the PCOS system requires the pre-printing of the names of the candidates on the ballots, which could be done only at the National Printing Office which is the sole printing the ballots and papers are issued.

On the other hand, manual balloting would also not be possible because manual ballots would not be available. Under the manual polls supervised by Pardo, the ballots were generic and could be filled up by the voters by writing their choices. Hence, a new manual election would be called instantly.

* * *

Grand devil for teachers. Congratulations to Metrobank Foundation (MBF). Its flagship project, the Search for Outstanding Teachers (SOT), has been extended the Grand Award to the Public Schools Teachers of the Philippines. The Grand Award is the highest award, the "Oscar" of public education.

Hosting been chairman of the SOT board of judges in 1997 and 1998, I am a witness to the value and worth of the search. I know that teachers all over the country look upon it as the "Olympics" of their career. Recognition by the Olympics remains to their crowning glory. It means cash, plaques, points and national recognition.

Apart from teachers, MBF spends P100 million a year to search for and reward outstanding scholars, performers, journalists, artists, designers, and school administrators. Last year, it joined with Ayala Motors Philippines Foundation, built and donated to the University of the Philippines a spacious P100-million Asian Heritage Library and Auditorium.

Kudos to Dr. George U. K. Ty, MBF chairman, for nourishing, supporting and funding the SOT and other MBF projects, and to Senator Jovencio Cinco Sobrepeña, MBF president, for steering and patiently shepherding them.

* * *

Comments are welcome at theBar@pdpgroup.ph and @gmail.com

Alice grows up

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

PERHAPS ONCE TIM BURTON HAD THE RIGHT and the chutzpah to film Alice in Wonderland, which revisited Lewis Carroll's children's tales of "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" and its sequel "Through the Looking Glass" by Lewis Carroll.

Tweaking the story, Burton and writer Linda Woolverton transform Alice into a 19-year-old Victorian woman, coping with the death of her father and struggling with social expectations to marry her dysfunctional suitor and live the life of a "proper" lady. Not in her own subtle native progress in marriage in front of her family and friends, Alice spots a white rabbit which she recognizes from a dream she had as a child. Following the rabbit, Alice (Mia Wasikowska) falls down a hole and begins her wondrous adventures, including teaming up with the red-haired and evil-tempered Queen Mad Hatter (Johnny Depp).

Combining characters and encounters in both books, which were reportedly written while Carroll was high on cocaine, the movie tries to evade the manic spirit and absurdity of the results, but strangely, even in Burton's hands, it turns out to be somewhat subdued and unmoved.

Burton's stylistic quirks and his preternatural bent, enhanced by the 3-D viewing technology, but cannot match of the action in a dark lame and is largely unintelligible dialogue. Perhaps the somber mood is justified, for the story is supposed to be taking place after the Red Queen (Helena Bonham Carter) has overthrown her sister and just instituted much of Wonderland and rules and abuses the living creatures in it with cruelty and malice. (My favorite line: the Red Queen yelling, "I need a pig here!" before using the hapless animal as a croquet ball.)

The other characters welcome Alice back, believing she has come to fulfill her destiny: slay the Jabberwocky and liberate Wonderland from the clutches of the cruel Red Queen and return it to the benign rule of her sister, the White Queen. Name what else is the performance of Depp as the described as "cute but psycho"; in fact Alice resists the notion, but will grudging from the Hatter later and help from the other creatures, eventually found in Stanza 1 of Section; the quarter, more private and genteel side of the happening island. And there is an abundance of tea, too, to be being lifted in a hotel in Section 2, the center of the island, which is home and hosts more free traffic. As the Barangay Regency the first hotel-resort on the island to garner a Triple-A rating, one plus is that most of one's favorite restaurants or destinations are but a short stroll or a brief ride (by tricycle or taxi) away.

If you choose, you can spend the entire day at the Regency, starting with breakfast at the coffee shop which fronts the beach, people-watching while you nurse your first cup of coffee. Or you can arrange and parents can avail themselves of beach loungers under umbrellas and complimentary towels without worrying about their belongings which are kept under the watchful eye of attendants and guards. There are also enough swimming pools within the grounds for those who prefer a more secure venue. My own favorite is the deep blue pool of the Garden Wing, with a jacuzzi in the center.

Still, in my book, the best way to while the time away at the Regency is in beach somewhere at the Spa, which is the hotel's signature draw in Manila for luxury, comfort and quality of service. I booked a diamond peel facial at 2 p.m. on the second day of a recent stay, wishing to avoid the heat and sun, and I emerged looking not just energized and glowing, but totally refreshed as well.

My daughter and I had similar massages later that morning, (being is as close we would just fall into bed after our bodies had been kneaded into, if not submission, then at least total relaxation. But maybe it's just me age gap. An article I immediately emailed to her, my daughter also emerged enough to step out with her friends, crawling back in our room at four in the morning.

The best thing about being a frequent Regency visitor is that one can't visit favorite restaurants, shops and facilities with each visit. Or, sure can visit them, the way I do, but I always discover a new, or a favorite, or a haven't tried before, or a favorite I haven't tried before, or a favorite I haven't tried before, or a favorite I

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to
[redacted]
Edna Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

How they stand on population

TALK OF THE TOWN IS RUNNING THE STANDS OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES on a number of issues, starting with the country's fast-growing population, now estimated at more than 92 million.

We asked the candidates the following questions:

- Under your administration, what would be your population policy?
- Are you in favor of artificial family planning methods like pills, condoms and IUDs?
- Do you support proposals to teach sex education in all schools, public and private, starting Grade 5?
- Do you think the country's population growth worsen socioeconomic developments and aggravates poverty?
- What is your stand on the reproductive health bill? Has your position changed? Why? (House Bill No. 5043 calls for sex education in all schools starting Grade 5 and the promotion of contraceptives, among other things.)

Except for Benigno Aquino III and Manuel Villar, whose staff submitted their respective answers, the candidates were interviewed by Inquirer reporters covering the presidential campaign.

Benigno Aquino III
Liberal Party

My administration will fully support the crafting of a law that will address the inherent problem: overpopulation. It will be based on the ideas of responsible parenthood. Imposing on parents that they should play a key role in ensuring that each and every child they bring into this world has the opportunity to lead a good life, and advocating their shared responsibility with which to plan their families so they can ensure families based on their ability to sustain their needs.

In the process of providing a range of options and information to couples, both natural family planning and modern methods shall be promoted.

Children's parent-modules, especially the immature, environment-as-enablers (are) education for them to be able to act as responsible adults. The sex education curriculum should be morality-based, but to be developed from scientific sources and delivered by responsible educators.

If we intend to implement our numerous instruments that the basic needs of our citizens are met, the population issue has to be addressed. For instance, we are severely lack-materials and classrooms to accommodate our current student population. While this is also a problem for natural resources, it will be a greater problem if the direction if we have to keep up with a growing population.

I believe the reproductive health bill must be examined. One of the points I seek to improve is the long-time provision of a hospital bed per 200 inhabitants. If government hospitals will have it, this means there's a multiplier in it. There is a serious dearth of psychiatric doctors and you don't spread it small here in. This might lead to hospital staff pushing people into taking contraceptives instead of presenting them as a choice. There has to be protection against this.

Submitted by Aquino's staff

JC de los Reyes
Ang Kapatiran

Para kay Sec. 8, under Moral Recovery Plan, all Ang Kapatiran Party's personnel responsible parenthood and natural family planning." This is my population policy.

Our Declaration of a Consistent Ethic of Life reads: "Every human person is created in the image and likeness of God. We believe that every human life is sacred from conception to death; that people are more important than things; and that the measure of every institution is whether or not it enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

Therefore, our Declaration of a Consistent Ethic of Life. Ang Kapatiran Party upholds human life in all its forms and stages. All are important. Any aspect of human life affects another.

"The government is committing a contradiction who of life is it respects life' activities or atmosphere in society.

It misdirects ethic of life means being against the homicide, supporting divorce, artificial contraception, the death penalty, euthanasia, sports where male attacks to inflict physical violence or harm on the opponents, torture to extract confessions from an accused or a suspect, hazing, maltreatment of prisoners, pornography, prostitution, domestic violence, the culture of guns, death and violence, vandalism, the term race, poverty, corruption and unsafe working conditions."

The party and our platform lists on what we intend to enact RH Bill soon).

Interview by Antonio Aning

Joseph Estrada
Pwersa ng Masa

One of our major problems is (our fast-growing) population. During my time as President, the population growth rate was more than two percent. That means more than a million children were born every year.

We built classrooms but we still lacked classrooms. I handed out (four) sands of children are underschooled. Our problem is a lack of family planning. I am against abortion. With the many problems that we have, I believe that women should be given the choice to plan the family that they can afford.

Prevention of pregnancy is not a crime. Abortion is a crime. We hope we can use condoms or other forms of contraception. Do we want our children to become criminals? Or have as many children as they can afford?

Interview by Norman Bordadora

Richard Gordon
Bagumbayan

My population policy is simple: no abortion. I will not make the population problem as we see—95 million people are going to be there when I sit as President. I have been brought up believing that man, if he is properly educated, has a free choice.

Responsible parenthood should be educated to our people. But I will not force them. Neither will I spend government funds to curb population. I want a quality population.

A huge population under poor leadership will stunt our development. But good leadership will uplift the capability of our people and use the population as an edge device.

We will not graduate under my administration as high school without learning a skill that you can work with. The size of our population right now is a disadvantage, but it can be an advantage under the right leader.

It is up to the people to use contraceptives. But I will not "force" on the family's use. These are the rule must." It is, health and education are No. 1. They go side by side. So I want to spur the economic growth to provide P10,000 each. If I can raise the money the way I want it, I can pay them P10,000 as they can stay in the country.

I am also in favor of sex education in schools, rather than have our children roam it on the street. But to a good thing. It should be taught properly. This is important because of the explosion of mass media and the Internet. I would rather have children learn it from their parents or from the school.

I don't think the RH bill will be approved. I cannot say yes or no to the bill because it will affect certain issues when it is discussed in Congress. But I am for the responsible use of population and responsible parenthood. If graft comes in place, I would say "If you have more than two children, then your salary" for the third child's public education and health services.

Interview by Edson Tandoc

Maria Ana Consuelo Madrigal, Independent

Children by quotas on family planning should be respected. The people should decide, not the government. However, abstinence means violation of reproductive rights as sexuality poverty should be discouraged and prevented.

I am for education or information dissemination of the advantages and disadvantages of birth control. Many of our people still don't know about this issue. Many women know they become pregnant, but they don't know their cycle, etc.—when they would get pregnant or not.

It is unfortunate that only the rich are given adequate information regarding family planning. The poor should also be given the same information.

I am against using government funds in buying condoms and other contraceptives because it will be another source of corruption.

Interview by Jerry Esplanada

Nicanor Perlas
Independent

My position is between right to life and choice. I am free with many issues and fixations. This is decided by the people but it should not be coercive and result in abortion.

Pills, as long as they're not abortifacients. Condoms are OK. IUDs, no, because they can damage the health of users.

Sex education must be done after puberty. But I would make it optional.

Population density is only one factor. Other factors are environmental degradation. I. The other is technology. Be concerned by population, but also be concerned about technology, whether it can improve or enhance the carrying capacity of the nation.

The RH bill requires a thorough and sensitive and respectful process with key stakeholders. There are really very few on the president's side who are supporting the law's key RH bill provisions.

I originally wanted to support (a RH bill). But I saw the stalemate over the bill and it was not getting anywhere. So, what does that do? Population is still growing. We might have to find another way and that the balance I can is to support a moratorium.

(My position changed) when the debate became heated. As a public figure, you get scrutiny of the balance and you have to make a judgment call. Is this policy workable or practicable? If it's not you have to find ways to solve the problem.

When I was a congressman, I never supported any RH bill. Officially I did not support it. But personally, "Sabi ng nanay (it might be possible)." Only in this Congress has there been an almost serious attempt to do it, and it has reached a point of seriousness.

Interview by TJ Burgonio

Eduardo Villanueva
Bangon Pilipinas

We are against all forms of abortion. Therefore, banning our welcoming some (methods of) family planning and responsible parenthood as long as moral values are not violated and the health of the mother and child is not compromised.

Once elected (I'll) order a comprehensive review of the RH bill to take out the contentious issues without sacrificing the sound programs for responsible parenthood and family planning.

But it is more important to address poverty. Once we have addressed poverty, there will be no more controversies.

We (I'm in favor of artificial family planning methods), as long as there is no violation of medical laws and of the health of the mother and child. And there is no violation of moral laws.

Grade 5 (for sex education) is too young. Congress should study carefully what's the best age for young people to start learning about sex.

In the short run, if the poverty problem is unaddressed because of indigestion and declining income, it's the responsibility of the government to get rid of (in) the economic condition of our country. Like when you're just renting an apartment and you produce 12 children. However, if the declining corruption could be arrested, in the near future, we want to aim an economic revolution in the country.

I agree with some provisions (of the RH Bill). If elected President (I'll make a meeting with) the committee on the review of the bill. I'm concerned. I'm against abortion because that is bad/ don. But it's a value (issue) or a conscience (issue). Responsible and responsible parenthood. It must be in the hands of the couple. I'm against intrusion of an ordinance or the (anti-)democratic (because) it violates the basic democratic human rights (of the) citizens.

Interview by Doris Pena Regalado

Manuel Villar
Nacionalista Party

I am basically prolife. I think the teaching of proper values of how to responsible parenthood and responsibilities to them should be harnessed constantly.

Then certified family planning methods are a matter of choice and should remain as such. I do respect the people's independence, freedom of choice with regard to family matters.

In (sex education in all schools) might result in more responsible parenthood for our poor children to the matter of sex at the Grade Level.

Our current population should be viewed as an asset and ways should be discovered on how economic growth can be helped by population size. India and China are growing fast and they are the most populated countries in the world.

I'm against (the) RH Bill. (We should let parents decide. The government) should just guide them.

Submitted by Villar's staff

INQUIRER Mindanao

Tugaya craftsmen keep their art alive

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Inquirer Mindanao

AFTER PRAYING, Alhomin Pacalna softly pounded his pasuang (chisel), carefully tracing a twirling pattern that explodes into an intricate design showing the uniquely Maranao style.

He was doing the final touches on the top cover of the four-by-nine-inch, adorned with Motifs of Food Locally called tepay.

Pacalna can sell the chest for as much as P40,000. The last piece he had sold to a neighbor was worth P30,000.

Making boxes is a tradition in the Pacalnas, who live in Barangay Ingud Pelikatan in the town of Tugaya, Lanao del Sur. Alhomin started making wooden chests when he was about 15 years old, following in the footsteps of his craftsman father.

"My father did not teach me, but I learned a lot from him. There was no formal training or education. It just came out from me. My father was so dedicated and his passion was so intense. I saw how he put himself to what he was doing and that influenced me a lot," Pacalna said.

A RESIDENT of Tugaya, Lanao del Sur, shows his skills in making "kaso" (treasure chest). ARIANE CHUA-EOAN/INQUIRER

Ancient enterprise

Ingud Pelikatan is known for its goldsmiths, but some residents like Pacalna are into wood carving. Their products are often sent to department stores in Metro City and Metro Manila. The faces are also seen along with other Maranao crafts, inside the lounges of Maranao royal houses.

For the Maranao people of Tugaya, how making is an ancient art their history of economic emigration. The Iwasan chests were used by the people to store their products with those of others in the villages surrounding Lake Lanao.

Pacalna's account indicates that by the 1950s, US Peace Corps volunteers brought the Tugaya boxes to the United States.

A documentation initiated by the local government on the cultural properties of the Maranao settlement of Tugaya says that "carvers" famed for the four were because of its unique features. Even chests as old as 200 years—passed as family heirlooms—were sold.

Because of the demand coupled with the economic hardship of the owners, old boxes were sold to tourists and that slowly led to their extinction. Box making was revived in the 1980s and started in Ingudb in Tugaya alongside the bamboo industry. The document said.

Kasano is also an expert in making the epeng, a musical instrument that completes the 13-piece kulintang ensemble.

His brothers, Amir Tahir and Taja Tahir, of Barangay Kuya (another making) too. Taja's 10-year old son Abakar Mariano blasted weapons.

"But Ither was known for his feet and complete which set (a) bird with gold. The weapons that he made were known as one of the best," said Taja, who is also a policeman.

The Pala community is known for its footpillars, a one-side blade, single-edge straight sword used by a tribe member; and, dang, a double-two-edged dagger bearing similar features to that of the Malaysian many sword and used as a royal symbol; gerah, a 6 to 9-inch dagger used by a sultan; and the pedang, a single-edge sword connected to the chevron sun.

The art and crafts of Tugaya, according to Silpanga Mamigo, a former Islamic Studies professor at the King Faisal Center of Muslim Asian University, have been passed from one generation to another.

"Where did this come from? This is a treasure passed on to us by the previous people. Some—learned by them, polished by experience. The arts and crafts that you see around here and the ones that you see in other parts of the country and around the world, speak of what we are as a people. They are our identity," said Mamigo.

Over the years, he said, the people of Tugaya had chosen their signature crafts and unique creativity. And at 32-year-old wood carver Ahmad Arap Bansa would say it: "We are not a resident of Tugaya if you are not an artist."

Artistic women, too

If the men's preoccupation is metal and wood, the women of Tugaya are not without their own creative window. In Barangay Tenglad, the mother-daughter tandem of Bubiya Sambolo, 54, and Rinda Mala, 37, is known for weaving the bright and lovely.

They are part of a group of women engaged in making different kinds of handicrafts, such as weaving the traditional cloth using malong, bright and lovely (similar to embassy a soulful) handwork on mat-weaving, papa (colorful large round cloth used during special ceremonies), and the paysong a dalusan (embroidery).

As to from and woodcraft, the Tugaya women's skills in weaving has been passed through generations. The intricate designs reflect the owners' belief and social status.

Mala started to weave when she was only in Grade 5, learning the craft from her mother.

Her crafts may appear like they are expensive but the price is fair enough for what we put into it. Our craft is our life and our main livelihood," Tan Tahir said.

Amidst of the competitive edge of the Tugaya products, the Local Government Support Program in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (LGSPR), through the Local Economic Development (LED) Project, has worked with the artisans since 2005.

Gin Tupaya, a project officer of LSGPA, said the products could generate more jobs and income for the people.

The Tugaya local government has tapped Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology for help in the design and construction of a kiln drying and metal foundry so that it can improve the quality of its products.

In December 2007, a group of artisans joined a cluster of study tours in Lanao to learn from people with similar sources of livelihood. In Baguio City, they met

> "There was no formal training or education. It just came out from me ..."

here the local and private organizations worked together with very minimal assistance from the government.

Rajiya Abawa Alawaw Gonzales, who accompanied the artisans, learned that a local government could provide the environment for local economic development through legislation. He, too, learned that Baguio's economy was raised by the City Investment Incentive Code and that its business growth was being aided by revenue shares from its 10,000 commercial establishments.

The artisans also started a wood-based production business in the City of San Fernando in Pampanga and saw the potential of bamboo for wood-craft.

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

SCORCHING

It was business as usual in some parts of Barangay Lahug in Cebu City despite ...

Comelec to enforce rule vs Bulacan gov tomorrow

CITY OF MALOLOS—IF UNSEATED BULACAN Gov. Joselito Mendoza fails to get a temporary restraining order by Monday, he would have to step down and yield his post to Roberto Pagdanganan, the provincial election supervisor said yesterday.

Sixto Mojarlo, Bulacan election supervisor, said he will implement on Monday the writ of execution of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) ordering that mandated its decision to assist Mendoza in favor of Pagdanganan.

The Comelec, after a recount, declared Pagdanganan the winner in the 2007 gubernatorial race. It ordered Mendoza to vacate and deliver keys pertaining the functions of Bulacan governor.

The decision spurred a confrontation over a three-year old case that could turn bloody two months before Bulacan elects its next governor.

"That's the problem. If Mendoza refuses to give a TRO, then I will serve the writ," Mojarlo said.

Mendoza's supporters have planned gathering at the provincial capitol to stop Pagdanganan from taking the post.

He said he would talk to Mendoza and Pagdanganan on Monday to pave the way for a smooth transition.

Jolette Fajardo, Mendoza's lawyer, said they will go to the Supreme Court on Monday to seek a TRO.

"Hopefully we can get it on the same day. If not, I'm hope to get a TRO on[?] Tuesday, [illegible] so that we have meeting of the SC," he said.

On Friday night, Pagdanganan met his supporters at the [illegible] to [illegible] the province's [illegible].

While he took his oath before a notary public, he did not proceed to the capitol to assume the post.

Pagdanganan said he would assume the post on Monday to allow the transition between him and Mendoza's supporters.

Zoilo Andres, Comelec General Luisito Abendoy, said Pagdanganan may file a motion for execution pending Mendoza's appeal.

"Pagdanganan can file for a motion for execution with the Comelec en banc pending appeal. If the Comelec grants it, he can assume the post," Andres said.

Supt. Manuel Laddaran Jr., head of the Bulacan police's [illegible] group, said about 150 personnel have been stationed at the capitol compound to maintain order as the conflict on the province's leadership continues.

On May 10, about two months from now, the province will elect a new set of officials starting from governor, mayor, councilors to members of the provincial board. —Gwenalin Reyes-Delavin, Inquirer Central Luzon

11 arrested in fraternity rites in Capiz

By Felipe P. Celino
Inquirer Visayas

ROXAS CITY—ELEVEN PERsons, including five minors, were arrested by the police while conducting hazing in an abandoned pigpen in Dumalag, Capiz, on Thursday.

Police raided the abandoned piggery after receiving a complaint from a village official over an ongoing hazing at the abandoned piggery in Villa Asunta, Barangay San Jose, said Insp. Aldren Lumeras, Dumalag police chief.

Lumeras said the suspects would be charged with violation of the Anti-Hazing Law on Monday.

Arrested were Rodnick Bienvenu, 24, of Dolorcitan Dumalag and a student of Mantiny Christian College (MCC); Audrey Bogumbis, 20, a woman; Randomer Estrada, 22, of Barangay Bo-Ingit, Dumalag and a student of Colegio dela Purisima Concepcion (CPC); and Gerardo Pesquera, 19, a criminology student of CPC and resident of Barangay San Roque.

The minors included a female computer science student of the Dumalag Vocational and Technical School (DVTS) and a resident of Mtn. Head, Dumalag.

Also arrested were Arnold Balquinto, 22, also of DVTS and resident of Mandalag, Gainza, Capiz; and Jake Gaela, 21, of Jacgob Gainza.

Bulquinto and Gaerlan were being initiated by the group calling itself The Criminal Fraternity, said Lumeras.

Lumeras said the first Pakistani was arrested on Monday in Cebu City.

Lumeras said the two Pakistanis were being held at the Cebu police station.

—Chito D. Aragon, Inquirer Visayas

NEWSBRIEFS

■ CAPIZ

One Visayas

THE PROVINCE will host the second "One Visayas, One People, One Border," an exhibit scheduled March 11-14 that will showcase Visayas culture, arts, heritage, products and festival.

One Visayas was conceptualized by officials of the Regional Development Councils of Eastern Visayas, Bicol and Mimaropa, who agreed that it was time for the Visayas to acknowledge the cultural bond that connects them.

Capiz Gov. Victor Tanco Sr. said the One Visayas coordinator has invited President Macapagal-Arroyo to the One Visayas opening ceremony. —Felipe P. Celino, Inquirer Visayas

■ CEBU

2 Pakistanis nabbed

POLICE on Thursday arrested two Pakistanis accused of raping three 15-year-old Bicolano help in Carcar City, Cebu.

Kassim Ahmad Dhin, 31, singer, and Mohammad Nabi Gul Nabi, 31, who was recently divorced from his Cebuana wife, were arrested at their apartment in Sitio Bitaugol, Barangay Liburon in Carcar a day after a complaint of rape was filed against them by their helper.

The girl was allegedly raped last Monday and Tuesday, the first and second nights that she was hired by Nabi.

PO1 Eva Caminade, the women's desk officer of the Carcar City police, said the victim went to the police station with her mother on Wednesday to report the assault.

Caminade said the two Pakistanis were now being held at the Carcar police station.

—Chito D. Aragon, Inquirer Visayas

■ CAMARINES SUR

Ex-cop murdered

A RETIRED policeman running an ecumenical counselor of Pasacao, Camarines Sur, was shot dead by suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels Thursday for allegedly refusing to pay protection money and permit to campaign here, a military official said Friday.

Protacio Hermoso, 60, was strolling unarmed only in South Ulalihan, Barangay San Antonio, to retrieve his carabao's wandering when he was attacked by four suspected rebels at around 6:30 a.m., said 1Lt. Jerome Bala, the ranking commander of the 9th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army.

Hermoso, a candidate of the Lakas-Kampi-CMD, suffered several bullet wounds from a .45-caliber pistol. He died instantly.

—Ray-Ar Awed, Inquirer Southern Luzon

■ EVENTS

Barbosa: $9

ALBAY Rep. Joseph Sto. Tomas Mac Barbosa died of a lingering illness last March 3.

His remains lie at the Knot na Silaw Memorial Park, McArthur Highway, Makao, Daraga, Albay. Cremation will take place on Sunday, March 7 at the Eve Memorial Center, Meysaysay, Rizal. Barbosa, 68, a former provincial board member, was 7.3Ka.m.

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PANAGBENGA VISITOR

Vice presidential candidate Loren Legarda is greeted by revelers along Session Road during the Panagbenga flower festival in Baguio City. Legarda joined 15 million contenders who flocked to Baguio for the 18th Panagbenga.

"POLITICAL WILL IS A prime factor in protecting OFWs. We must tap the best lawyers and pursue diplomatic steps to win support from international groups."
SEC. DE JESUS
March 2010

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor Gerry Lirio

E-mail: globalpinoy@yahoo.com.ph

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world to secure a better [illegible] more stories.

War vet, 90, dies on his way to getting his just reward

By Karlo Jose R. Pineda
Contributor

Many decades after the war, countless Filipino soldiers are still unrewarded–among them this unsung hero from Negros Oriental

FOR FORTUNATO PAGADIAN, A FILIPINO World War II veteran, his five-hour trip from Negros Oriental to Cebu City on Feb. 24, 2009 to personally fill out forms needed for a Filipino veteran to avail of his compensation under the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund was too much to bear. The trip might not have been much different from the hardships experienced by WWII Filipino soldiers during the Bataan Death March, a six-day, 60-mile hike where many died of abuse and exhaustion along the route.

It has been years since he last went on a long trip; to order to reach his destination, he had to ride a ferry on a stormy seaway and then on to a bus over dirt-covered roads.

"My mother, who accompanied my late, said the trip was tiring and rough, especially for the elderly," recalled 31-year-old granddaughter Jerrilyn Cabreines. "My grandfather was 90 years old."

Hospital instead of camp

Pacadang and his daughter-in-law Marilou were heading to Lump Lapu-Lapu, which was set up by the US Embassy in Manila as a processing center where veterans would process their papers and be interviewed before getting their one-time lump sum payment under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

According to the law passed by the US Congress and signed by US President Barack Obama on Feb. 17, 2009, a qualified Filipino WWII veteran is entitled to $15,000 ($9,000) as financial aid from the American government. This is to finally compensate the service of Filipino soldiers to the US army, which more than 60 years later.

Instead of going straight to the camp, Marilou found herself rushing her father-in-law to a veterans hospital near the area.

The old man was running after his breath, she said.

"They reserved long lines in the camp, but this came as a surprise," Jerrilyn said. "My late had an ailment and was relatively strong, but the trip surely made his health deteriorate."

Couldn't afford hospital

Pacadang never made it to camp. Where, he was forced to leave the hospital since the two did not have enough money to pay for the bills. "We stayed there just for a day. He was given a prescription. But since they couldn't pay for the injection the nurse gave him, they were asked to leave," said Jojo Pacadang, 36, a grandson.

They thought his grandfather's ailment would be free since the hospital was supposed to built for Filipino veterans.

The former member of the US Armed Forces in the Far East never back in his hometown where he was again admitted to another hospital which, according to Jojo, was far from their town and had inadequate facilities.

He died on Feb. 26, 2009.

Delayed burial

What happened in February 2009 will forever haunt the Pacadangs. They would not have their chest beloved old man under the most tragic circumstances had he not traveled the distance. One problem after another led Jewel to the aftermath of their bereavement—problems that have no solutions until now.

They have been promised by the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office some of $14,500 as part of the financial aid given to veterans. Members of the family had intended to spend this amount for burial, but were dismayed when they were informed that only the veteran or his spouse could claim it.

Paying debt

"He's already dead so how can he claim it?" Jojo lamented. "And my grandmother died years before my grandfather passed away. Thirteen years, to be exact."

At a result, the burial had to be delayed since the family needed to borrow more money from friends and relatives. They spent around P148,000 for interment and, to date, they have not completely settled their debts.

Jerrilyn said that this was not the first time her side of the family was not able to take full advantage of the benefits given to Filipino war veterans.

In 1974, Pacadang was issued a green card, which could have granted him permanent residency in the US. But since he was not properly informed about what the card was for, the old soldier just kept it and soon forgot about it. The card later misplaced, soiled and ruined after a flood.

Since Pacadang died, claiming what was due him got more complicated, even if, before dying, he managed to submit all the requirements and sign all the necessary papers. He did all this while he was confined in the Cebu hospital, where representatives from the Department of Foreign Affairs paid him a visit.

According to the family's attorney-in-fact Ares Cayosa who initially looked into the case, the law states that, like the P15,000 financial aid, only the veteran and his spouse can collect the $9,000 refund.

The law also specified that guerrilla fighters authorized by the Armed Forces of the United States and members of the Philippine Scouts covered in Section 14 of the Armed Forces Voluntary Recruitment Act of 1945 can receive the monetary benefit. All beneficiaries should have completed their service and were honorably discharged.

Unfair treatment

"I talked to a representative of the US Embassy [between 30 their office over the phone and she explained to me that the heirs of the veterans cannot claim the compensation package since GI law does not allow it," Soprena said.

Asked what the Pacadangs can do, he answered: "Nothing. The law is clear. It's not long ago that they will amend the law knowing how long the fight in the US Congress took for it to be passed. Pacadang may not be the only widower-veteran who died waiting for the thank-u-so-much."

"But isn't it fair that at least the family gets something from the valiant efforts of our late?" asked Jojo. "Does this mean just because he died while processing his papers, he doesn't merit anything from the sacrifices he made for the country and the US?"

Jerrilyn and Jojo have been following up the case with the US Embassy but to no avail. Nevertheless, they vow to exhaust their resources just to get what they believe was rightfully theirs.

"Even just calling the embassy is hard," Jojo said. "We're having problems since only our grandfather is authorized to do the transactions. Yet, again, how can he when he's already gone?"

He continued, "We were once asked to supply a Special Power of Attorney and we did. But then the people in the embassy said it's still impossible for us to get our late's money. We don't really know how the operations work, but things aren't just right. It would help if they won't let us go around in circles."

The US Department of Veterans Affairs had approved the applications of 12,644 eligible Filipino WWII veterans after the filing of applications ended on Feb. 16. The US Embassy in Manila said that a total of about P7.2 billion had been paid to qualified veterans or their widows.

Similar plea

In the US, other Filipino veterans are asked for detailed information about their activities while fighting under the American flag for them to claim their benefits. Also, they need to present supporting documents from their colleagues during the war.

How can people as old as 90 vividly recall the things they did 60 years ago? they asked. And how can their colleagues give testimonies when many of them are already dead?

NOTHING BUT MEMORIES Other than his name and a wealth of wartime stories, Pacadang left his family, among them grandchildren Jojo and Jerrylyn, and her 5-year-old daughter Cassandra, with nothing. They are told by the US Embassy where they continue to follow up their late's claim that only the veteran himself or his spouse is entitled to the $9,000 benefit. But both are now dead.

Can notorious politicians get US asylum after the elections?

IMFO
Lourdes Santos Tancinco

WITH THE SANGGUNIAN AND local elections coming in a few weeks, political campaigns are going on a high gear. The candidates are not the only ones busy; businessmen, lenders and their associates may already be planning for their exit strategies with the probable post-election political scenarios.

An employee of a nonveteran public official is considering applying for political asylum in the United States. He claims that during the season of his boss, they engaged in "dangerous" activities. Their political enemies are now threatening his life and that of his family. Hence, the boss has advised to depart the Philippines and seek a safe haven abroad.

Political asylum

Immigrating to other countries is usually the first thing that comes to mind in the door to the US open to prospective "escapees"!

More than 50,000 refugees apply for asylum in the US annually. During the Marcos regime, thousands of Filipinos obtained resident status as political asylees.

In recent years, the ease of approval of asylum applications has declined.

The Immigration and Nationality Act defines "refugee" as a person who suffers persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social or political group. Case law defines "persecution" to include the infliction of harm or suffering on the victim.

Not always political

Political conditions in a country itself typically will not constitute persecution if it affects the population as a whole. Even when an applicant for political asylum is falsely accused, being arrested and prosecuted for a crime, it does not amount to persecution.

If the applicant for political asylum establishes that he is accused of a crime and that he will not receive a fair trial because of the protected grounds, or that the crime is political, then probably the "persecution" element can be proven.

No fair trial

On the other hand, if the applicant for political asylum indeed violated a law such as committing murder, bribery or corruption, and, claims that there is no fair trial, this is it. will will not constitute political asylum. former Agricultural Undersecretary Jesus Mislang's application, for example, was denied because he failed to show that he was "persecuted" in the Philippines based on his political opinion. The harm that he claimed did not rise to the level of persecution to warrant the grant of an asylum.

Immigrant investors

With the economic downturn in the US, new businesses and infusion of capital from abroad are welcome. Immigrant investors is highly regulated and require the investor to have a capitalization in a new enterprise of at least $1 million or $500,000 in targeted employment areas. It also requires the creation of full-time employment for at least 10 US workers.

This $1-million immigrant investor should be distinguished from the nonimmigrant treaty or investor visa which may require less than the $1-million or $500,000-capitalization and does not require a 10-employee minimum.

Those contemplating on investing their accumulated "savings" must understand that having capital alone may not necessarily gain an automatic green card. An immigration consultant who both uses the source of investments. One of the requirements is that investment money must come from a legal source, not from "criminal" or corrupt activities.

Take responsibility

If an individual who is planning to leave the Philippines after elections is embroiled on whether to apply for political asylum or an investor visa, he may want to just "vote" the SOB or entire parties in power great status. Unfortunately, if it is discovered that the individual has engaged in criminal activity, is a fugitive from justice, or is a convicted felon, lawful steps to remove or deny admission in the US may be initiated as well by immigration authorities. Commission of certain crimes is a ground for inadmissibility or for non-issuance of visas.

This election season, it is not unusual for some political leaders, whether elected or appointed, to consider leaving the country after a change in administration. There are those who do commendable public deeds or those corrupt public officials. Trying to escape from liability for past corrupt practices is a natural act of self-preservation. But there are no easy steps to treasure, and danger lurks along the way.

Elected and appointed officials should remain accountable to the people they promised to serve. Those planning to run from their responsibilities may have an option to leave. But they cannot hide forever.

Tancinco may be reached at law@tancinco.com or at 02-8077177.

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HEALING HEARTS IN CALOOCAN

Troubled minors get warm welcome

By Beverly T. Mabinidad

PAPER CUTOUTS OF THE PHRASE "WELCOME TO our home" and pastel walls greet guests at the small reception area, where they are met by an emergency house staff wearing wide smiles.

There are no signs that indicate the facility is, in fact, a holding center for Caloocan City minors, aged 18 years and below, who have been accused of various crimes.

Built only this year by the city government, the Yakap-Bata Holding Center on the second floor of the Sangguniang Panglungsod building within the premises of City Hall tries to stay true to its name, serving as a temporary shelter for what the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) prefers to call "children who are in conflict with the law" (CICL).

Yakap-Bata is a Filipino term meaning "embrace or hug the child."

The words used to apply to those children were carefully chosen by the DSWD in line with the state's policy of recognizing the rights of every child accused in a crime to be treated with dignity—as expressed in Republic Act 9344 or the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006. This policy takes into account that the accused are minors who should eventually be reintegrated into mainstream society.

Rowena Delina, the center's head, told Inquirer that Yakap-Bata is not a detention cell, and therefore, its residents are not treated as detainees but as children apprehended because of problems with the law.

"We really want the center to be like a home to them, and the people working here, like their second family," she said.

There a tiny cubicle in one corner of the City Social Welfare and Development (CSWD) office in the compound, Yakap-Bata's area. If needed, facility consists of two huge dormitory-type rooms, one for males and the other for females. There is also a session hall where they all meet up for various structured activities.

The shelter currently houses 21 boys and four girls, with cases ranging from simple theft and robbery-holdup to the more serious crime of murder. Most children are below 15 years old.

Five minors entered trials in the family courts of the Caloocan City Regional Trial Court, assisted by social workers. 13 others are still awaiting for their cases to be raffled off.

Under the law, they are free of any criminal liability for their acts, but they undergo behavioral intervention activities with the city's social workers.

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"Ito ang mga pangangailangan natin mga kababaihan kaysa sa ilang sektor ng lipunan. Tulad sa mga usapin pang-kalusugan at pangangalaga sa atin mga kanayakan. At walang lubos na mabakwasiwas ng mga ito, kundi isang kapasa kaibar rin. Kaya naman ipinaglalaban ni Loren para maging batas ang Anti Violence Against Women & Children Act. Upang kahit sa loob mismo ng tahanan, alagad ang ating kanayunan. Bilang isang babae, naiintindihan niya ang nararamdaman natin. Dahil dito, ikaw Loren ang Vice President ko!"
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CHILDREN in conflict with the law (CICL) find a temporary home at Caloocan City's Yakap Bata Holding Center while their cases are still pending in court. Most of the CICL at the center, whose ages range from 9 to 17, come from broken families. LYN RILLON

Troubled minors get warm welcome

From page A1

On a regular day, the children are up at 7 a.m. for morning prayers and exercises. They help out in the cooking chores, take their breakfast at 8 a.m. and are later tasked to clean the house, bathe and wash their clothes.

"Yan 'yung disiplina, structured activities para sa pagbabago ng araw-araw," said Dirilan.

The Yakap Bata children are taught values education and livelihood skills in the allotted two sessions with social workers as part of the behavioral intervention activities.

Dirilan said the facility was funded and built by the city government in accordance with a provision of Republic Act 9344 for a "home environment" different from confinement in city jails reserved for adult offenders. Such a facility should provide rehabilitation and training programs for werewolf minors.

Yakap Bata, however, is only considered a holding center and not yet quite like the rehabilitation center envisioned by the law. Dirilan said it employs 15 house parents, a psychologist, a social worker, and five administrative staff, but is not yet fully-equipped to be able to provide a rehabilitation program for the minors they have under their wing. This is the only facility for troubled minors in the city classified for now.

As a halfway house, Dirilan said the center provides immediate home care to the apprehended child who is deserted/without care, counseling, a sentimental education and recreational activities, and livelihood skills. The children are later brought to nongovernment organizations like Uswag Foundation, Cradle, and Bata Innovation can provide them temporary care.

Challenges

Dirilan said maneuvering such a facility also poses a lot of challenges to the LSWD.

Since its residents are children with behavioral and authority problems, securing some of the rear the bunny restlessness at Yakap Bata.

Dirilan said several minors have attempted to escape several times by destroying the metal windows of the three cubicles in the facility in some instances, the center staff also found sharp objects under the bunk beds of minors who were members of town gangs.

Just last month, the male residents staged a noise barrage inside their dormitory to get the attention of house parents working on their shift that day. When Dirilan opened the door, the kids pushed her back and went straight towards the door. Only three kids were returned to Yakap Bata; the rest were rounded up by the security guard on duty.

Noting that the facility was more like a home than a jail, the LSWD initially did not want to call in police. But Dirilan said they have now put in a request for a police detail to provide protection for both the children and the staff.

Despite the challenges, Dirilan said they have not stopped them from their act of reaching the children back into the mainstream. The center, in fact, is proud of several former residents who have been released back to their families and who now use their free time as volunteer counselors in the cases they have left behind and the new ones that come in.

Dirilan said she is also proud to be a part of a former resident who has reintegrated with the outside world: a clear best motivation for them to believe that there is hope for children who have fallen by the wayside.

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Navotas homes torn down for road project

By Beverly T. Natividad

SOME 240 FAMILIES LIVING IN AN OLD informal settlement along N-10 in Navotas City saw their homes to a demolition crew of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) on Friday to clear the way for a road-widening project in the area.

Despite appeals from residents earlier to postpone the demolition until they were moved to relocation sites, the DPWH proceeded to tear down the shanties on R-10 to widen the road spanning parts of Tondo in Manila all the way to Navotas.

"Our homes were demolished despite our efforts to arrive at an amicable settlement of the issue. We feel the government values the road-widening project more than us," said Presidita Jamisola, leader of the Samahang Pinagbuklod ng Pagkakaisa, a group representing the informal settlers. The evicted residents had been living on R-10 since the 1980s.

The residents claimed that on Aug. 1, 2008, President Macapagal-Arroyo promised them that they were included in the 11 priority areas that would be relocated on a permanent resettlement site in Montalban, Rizal province.

Last Thursday the affected families also had a dialogue with the National Housing Authority (NHA), but no relocation plans were confirmed.

Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco said earlier that the city government had no power to stop the evictions since the DPWH was implementing a nationally funded road project.

Man with PNP ID shot dead by gunman in QC

By Julie M. Aurelio

A MAN CARRYING AN IDENTIFICATION card of the Philippine National Police (PNP) was gunned down on Friday night by an unidentified assailant at the Salam Compound in Barangay Culiat in Quezon City.

Police investigators recovered the PNP card on the body of Mastersing Simbing, 33, who was found dead in an alley near Lebanese Street at around 8:30 p.m. Friday.

Case investigator PO3 Junior Jimeno of the Quezon City Police District's Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit said they are still verifying from Camp Crame authorities if the victim was a police officer.

A resident of Sicla Street inside the Salam Compound, Simbing was reportedly seen talking to an unidentified man outside his house minutes before he was shot.

An initial investigation showed that the victim's cousin, Emma Andre, also a resident of the compound, said she was in her uncle's house when she heard two men talking loudly outside the house.

When none outside to check, she said she saw Simbing talking to a man. Andre then returned to the house.

"Minutes later, she said she heard two gunshots outside the house. Together with other relatives, they went outside and saw Simbing sprawled on the ground," the case investigator said.

The suspect, meanwhile, fled with the firearm he used in the shooting. Police were able to recover two empty shells, four slugs etc. caches of suspected shabu and the PNP identification card from the crime scene.

Brown: US dismissed postwar Iraq concerns

LONDON—BRITISH PRIME Minister Gordon Brown insisted on Friday the decision to invade Iraq was justified, but told a major inquiry into the war that the United States dismissed warnings of chaos and violence once Saddam Hussein was toppled.

In his first hours of evidence to Britain's inquiry on Iraq, a somber Brown repeatedly expressed regret over the lost lives of soldiers and civilians, and acknowledged mistakes were made by leaders in Washington and London.

Brown, who served as Treasury chief from 1997 to 2007 and approved military spending, dismissed claims he had choked Britain's defense budgets to afford soldiers to go to war without adequate equipment.

Defending his role in the conflict, but cautious not to inflame tensions over the unpopular war ahead of a looming national election campaign, Brown said yesterday the 2003 US-led invasion was a tough call.

"We have got to recognize that war may be necessary but it is also tragic in the effect it has on people's lives," said Brown, who was told—like a majority of British lawmakers—he supported Britain's role in the war.

"There were difficult decisions," Brown said. "I believe they were the right decisions for the right reasons."

But he was critical of US and British saying American officials failed to heed warnings about the need for clarity on how to protect and govern Iraq in the aftermath of the invasion.

"It was one of my regrets that I wasn't able to do more successful in pushing the American on that in time—that the planning for reconstruction was inadequate just like some in planning for the war," Brown said. He said he'd drafted a paper listing British reconstruction plans and sent it to the US government in early March 2003.

The inquiry is Britain's third such wide-ranging examination of the conflict, which triggered huge protests and left 179 British troops dead before the country's future withdrawal from Iraq last year. The inquiry won't apportion blame or overrule Parliament, but will reflect recommendations later this year on how to prevent errors in the future.

Brown also sought to distance himself from President George W. Bush, suggesting their relationship was "unusual" and critiquing the decision of some members of Bush's administration. AP

BROWN

WORLDBRIEFS

Red Cross condemns Taliban use of booby trap bombs

KABUL—The Red Cross on Saturday condemned the use of booby trap bombs by the Taliban after one of southern Afghanistan that has been so heavily mined people are afraid to leave their homes. The bombs—known as improvised explosive devices (IEDs)—are also preventing refugees from returning to the area of Helmand province where US Marines have led 15,000 troops in an assault against the Taliban. It said in an unusually strong statement, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said the use of IEDs—the main weapon in the Taliban arsenal—was "unacceptable and unjustifiable." The Helmark farming area has been so heavily laced with IEDs that residents are largely confined indoors and the sick and injured cannot be evacuated for help, it said. People who fled Marjah before an offensive by the assault, launched on Feb 13, found returning along heavily mined roads to villages where commanders even mandate laser said the bombs are planted in fields, hanging from trees and even embedded in the walls of houses. AFP

Pentagon gunman reported to harbor anger vs US gov't

WASHINGTON—The gunman who opened fire at a navy base to the Pentagon on Thursday, wounding two police officers, harbored a deep-seated anger toward the US government and may have believed that this government staged the Sept. 11 attacks, officials said on Friday. The gunman, John Patrick Bedell, 36, who was killed by police, made explosives—and other clothing—postings and recorded videos on the Internet over the past few years, in these, he raged against what he saw as a totalitarian federal government, which he faulted for its handling of economic policy, public education and civil rights. Pete Williams, 65, a longtime friend of Bedell's, said: "It was what I gather from the family, he's been on a downhill spin for a while. And they were very, very concerned about him." AFP

Ohio jury: Doctor guilty of wife's cyanide death

CLEVELAND—An Ohio doctor accused of killing his wife's calcium supplement with cyanide so he could benefit his employer was convicted on Friday of her death. Dr. Samir Kissa, 51, was found guilty of aggravated murder after a jury heard weeks of testimony. His wife, Pramilla Kissa, collapsed in her car about eight kilometers from the couple's home and died on Feb. 24, 2009. Kissa, a Detroit suburb whose family is from the Palestinian territory, was an emergency room doctor in Akron. Mr Samir Kissa, 51 also

The WORLD

Editor Lorraine B. Queco

Pope's brother's choir faces sex abuse, beatings charges

HEILIG—GERMANY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC Church revealed charges of priests beating and sexually abusing boys in at least three schools in Pope Benedict's native Bavaria on Friday, one linked to a renowned choir once led by his brother.

The charges at the cathedral choir in Regensburg, the Benedict's former archdiocese, and at the Canisius school in Berchtesgaden came to light after abuse cases revealed in Jesuit schools around the country shocked the country last month.

Rev. Georg Ratzinger, 86, who led the choir from 1964 to 1994, told Bavarian Radio he knew nothing of any abuse at the Regensburger Domspatzen (Regensburg Cathedral Sparrows) choir, which regularly performs on local television and abroad.

The diocese of Regensburg, where the Pope taught theology at the university from 1969 to 1977, said there were no current abuse cases and if would immediately pass all charges from the past.

"We want to fully answer the question about which abuse cases happened in Regensburg diocese. Who were the perpetrators and who were the victims?" said diocese spokesperson Clemens Stock at a news conference in the northern Bavarian city.

The diocese said in a statement that one priest had abused two boys sexually in 1958 and was sentenced to two years in jail. Another clergyman served 11 months in jail in 1971 for abuse. Both men have since died.

It said three men claimed to have suffered sexual abuse as well as beatings and humiliation in the early 1960s while attending schools connected to the choir. The diocese was investigating these cases and more could be revealed, it said.

Several abuse scandals, which loomed the Church in the United States over the last decade and bankrupt several dioceses, have rocked Ireland after two blunt government reports in recent months had come to light in the Netherlands this week.

In Ettal in southern Bavaria, a lawyer investigating charges of abuse at a Benedictine monastery school said hundreds of boys had been beaten and some sexually abused decades ago.

"Hundreds of pupils were beaten," Thomas Pfister told a news conference there. "There were very extreme cases of mishandling, which certainly would have been punished with long prison sentences ... A climate of silence was thrown over the charges."

One monk now cited had committed "sexual assault accompanied with sexual abuse on small and older children," he said.

Hrs. Johannes Bauer, the monastery treasurer, admitted beating pupils while a teacher at the school in 1965-1987.

"To my shame, I have to say openly that I also brutally abused children physically and humiliated them," he said. "I am very sorry and ask forgiveness from the bottom of my heart."

The monastery has asked the Vatican to help it reform and take "a new spiritual direction." A Vatican official said the Holy See took this case seriously and would look into the inquiries.

Also in southern Bavaria, the Canisius order said a former director of the Berghausen school had abused boys sexually in 1964-1985. The charges were investigated in 1991 but no action was taken because the statute of limitations had run out.

Despite this, the priest was transferred in 1985 to work in a Munich hospital and later to a pilgrimage center in Wurzburg and only suspended from his priestly duties this month.

Archbishop Robert Zollitsch, head of the German Bishops Conference, apologized last month for sexual abuse of children by Catholic priests after over 100 such cases were reported in elite Jesuit boarding schools around the country. Reuters

JOSH Venables at police photo shoot Feb. 28, 1993.

Child-killers' return to jail sparks UK debate

LONDON—THE TWO CHILDHOOD friends were removed world to the public ceremony after parole so rules ma- sentenced Robert Thompson tion on television, of 2-year-old James Bulger being led to his death by the two bigger boys.

When officials announced this week that Venables—now 27 and her ex parole since 2001—is back behind bars for an undisclosed breach of his release conditions, the debate erupted again. Are Venables and Thompson, who also was convicted, children who deserve a chance at rehabilitation?

"What they did to that child ... I don't think he should be allowed in the community," said Beverly Dolan, 31, who comes from the Liverpool area and remembers the crime well, said on Friday.

It's a commonly expressed view, reflected in Britain's tabloid press. The Daily Mirror called Venables a "bonkers thug," the Sun Thompson an "extremely frustrated twit."

The pair spent eight years in juvenile detention for the murder of Bulger, whom they abducted from a shopping center in Liverpool while he wailed outside a shop for his mother. The boys dragged the toddler through town...telling inquiring adults that he was their brother—in a railway line, where they hit him with bricks and metal bars, poured paint in his eyes and finally left him on the tracks, where his body was cut in half by a train.

The killers were ordered detained "at Her Majesty's pleasure"—an indefinite sentence that could mean life in prison. They were freed in 2001, when they were 15, and given new identities. Only their immediate families and a small group of senior officials know who they really are, and a legal injunction bars the reporting of anything that could identify them.

Officials confirmed this week that Venables had been sent back to prison in secret days after his release for research.

Many victims' rights advocates say the facts should be made public now.

"Venables and Thompson have been given everything you could and more we've not even allowed to know the circumstances of their child-hoods—it was a very dysfunctional background," said Helen Newlove, whose husband was murdered by a gang of youths in 2007.

Bulger's parents say even they have not been told the reason Venables was sent back to jail.

Newspapers have filled the gap with speculation. The Daily Mirror reported that Venables had returned to Liverpool, a violation of his parole terms. The Daily Mail said he was jailed after being searched in a hotel. Others said authorities had grown worried by his drug and alcohol use.

Others expressed sympathy for Venables, saying his new identity is very likely to be exposed now that he is in prison, rendering years of effort by him and the authorities.

Brian Moreen, who has victim revenge books about murderers, argued that Venables was no longer "the wayward and abused child who shared in that dreadful crime all those years ago."

"It is just not possible. He is somebody else now"—and the arresting of a chance at redemption.

Despite the heaven still fell at the crime, some Britons agreed.

"Prisons are for murderers," said Irene Mullin, 50, from Southport, near Liverpool. "It makes it worse. It costs the taxpayer a lot of money. He needs some sort of therapy and support." AP

Turkey to US: Block 'genocide' bill or risk ties

ANKARA—A FURIOUS TURKEY warned of damage to its ties with the United States and protesters descended on the US embassy on Friday after a Congressional panel labeled the Ottoman era massacre of Armenians genocide.

Having recalled its ambassador immediately after the decision was adopted on Thursday, Ankara resisted Washington's efforts to contain the crisis.

Turkey is "seriously disturbed" that President Barack Obama's administration "did not put enough weight" behind efforts to prevent the resolution from being passed by the Foreign Affairs Committee, Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said.

"We expect the US administration to make more effective efforts from now on," he said.

"We hope Turkish-US ties will not be put to a new test ... otherwise, the prospect that we will have will not be a positive one," he added, telling the move a "matter of national honor."

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton sought to reassure Ankara by saying that the Obama administration would work to block the bill's passage.

"We will work very hard to make sure it does not go to the House floor," Clinton told reporters in Guatemala.

Nato member Turkey is a prominent Muslim partner in US efforts to stabilize Afghanistan and Iraq, and has an key route taking oil and natural gas to Western markets.

The committee passed the nonbinding resolution by a 23-22 margin, ignoring pressure from Turkey and the White House.

The nonbinding resolution calls on Obama to ensure that US foreign policy reflects an understanding of the "genocide" and to label the mass killings as such in his annual statement on the issue.

President Abdullah Gul had warned that "Turkey will not be responsible for the negative ramifications" of the vote.

As Turkish anger rumbled, a crowd of around 100 demonstrated outside the US embassy in Ankara, waving a black wreath with that mail. "We did not commit genocide, we defended the motherland."

Protestors chanted Anti-US slogans or a similar theme as tried but in civil unified.

Interestingly, of the resolution raised the "the risk of stopping" bridge-building ef- both with Armenia. AFP

IKAW ANG AMING KINABUKASAN.

"Magiging bayani isang kinagisnan, kapuri-puriang DFW ang nagagawa ng kanilang pagtulong sa mga pangarap ng mga bayani. Pinatapakuan ng magandang trabaho, para pala sa pagpapatuloy ng mga pangarap ang mga nawalan ng mahal sa buhay sa Maguindanao massacre. Para sa kanila, ikaw ang Ama Pinakabayani ko."

Layunin nitong pakinabangan ang pang-matagalan ng mga kababaihang Pilipino sa ibang bansa, pero nakalimutan ang mga maiiwan sa kanilang pamamahala sa sariling kabilyapan. Bilang isang Pilipina, nandoon at Loren ang hiling ng DFW. Dahil dito, buto Loren ang Ama Pinakabayani ko."

IKAW ♥ LAMANG LOREN

www.ikawlamangloren.com

2010 PHILIPPINE DIGESTIVE HEALTH WEEK

The Philippine Society of Gastroenterology, together with the Philippine Society of Digestive Endoscopy and Hepatology Society of the Philippines will be holding their Joint Annual Convention with the theme: ***"Gastroenterology at the Intersections: Celebrating 50 years of Interdisciplinarity"*** on March 10-13, 2010 at the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City as part of the **2010 PHILIPPINE DIGESTIVE HEALTH WEEK.** This year's convention coincides with the 50th founding anniversary of the Philippine Society of Gastroenterology.

The event kicks off with precongress activities on March 10, 2010 with simultaneous sessions of Interactive Workshop on the Basic Imaging of the Ileal, Biliary tree and pancreas; the Elective Hands-on Endotherapy Workshop; a) Clinical Nutrition Workshop and d) Workshop for the endoscopy nurses (PSGNA). Participants get to interact with local experts during the "Meet the Experts" session.

Renowned speakers from here and abroad will give updates and share their views and experiences with new and exciting developments in the science of gastroenterology, hepatology and digestive endoscopy during the Convention Proper on March 11-13, 2010. Free papers and poster presentation sessions is incorporated into the program to encourage research among young trainees and colleagues. Also, fellows-in-training will have hands-on in a jeopardy game "GASTROJEOPARDY" with cash and trophies at stake!

The Society's Committee has prepared a world class event that highlights the Past Presidents of the PSG during the Gala Dinner to be held in their honor during the Opening Ceremonies on the evening of March 10, 2010. Awards will come in formal Filipiniana attire.

The convention concludes with a Fellowship Night to be held on March 13, 2010 with game performance, raffle prizes and a live band.

Sunday SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa
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WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Nickalk grabs yellow jersey; Carera shines /A32
■ Bobcats post easy win vs tired Lakers /A25

Japan bags doubles, seals 'Davis' deal

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINES' DAVIS CUP CAMPAIGN came crashing down in the land of the rising sun yesterday.

Lucsi Mazzuki and Treat Huey, the country's best tennis tandem, sputtered in the doubles, giving host Japan an unbeatable 3-0 lead in their Asia-Oceania Group I tie at the Sumitomo Dome in Osaka, Japan.

Takao Suzuki and Yashitaka Matsui pulled out a methodical, straight-set 6-4, 6-4, 6-3 victory over the Filipinos to clinch the tie and render today's reverse singles as no-hearing matches.

The Filipino-American duo, who both dropped their singles matches Friday, suited up in lieu of Johnny Arcilla and Francis Casey Alcantara and proved no match for Suzuki and Matsui, who made the most of their fatal tactic with the carpet surface and the support of the homefield crowd.

Mazzuki and Huey, who won all their doubles matches last year in Group 2, squandered 10 break points in the first set and eight in the second.

World Group

The Philippines was hoping to skip past Japan, watch the Group I finals and gain a chance of making it to the World Group playoffs for the first time in 19 years.

The World Group is where powerhouse squads like United States, Spain and Switzerland, led by some of the sport's biggest names, vie action.

Club champs golf tees off March 15 at Eagle Ridge

TWENTY-SEVEN CLUBS ALL OVER the country are fielding their representatives in the Mahindra Tournament of Club Champions co-sponsored by Mitsubishi Lancer ES and Sunprom Golf on March 15 to 20 at the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in General Trias, Cavite.

The fifth staging of the country's most exclusive tournament where only club champions are eligible to compete will mark the return of two-time winner Bob Jang son of Basketball Association's pioneer and Builder Gerry Jr. of Mrs. Elena seeking a repeat in session play.

A spin-off netted by losers of backto-back matches is Division 2 to be won by Victor Dodbo of Alabang Golf Club, who just missed making finals last year, is among the prizes to be distributed.

Also looking the NTCC as major sponsors are Globe Mobile, Philippine Sports Commission and Real Golf Sports that enjoy full rights to the Mahindra and Mahindra Nuvo Golf and Country Club, Fairtown, Sta. Lucia Realty, Orchard, Pacific Links, Global Club Marina, Federation of Philippine Golf Clubs, Inc., Rica C., Jack Nicklaus and among the hole sponsors.

Park, who holds the record for most two year's competition, has reclaimed his spot and will try to become the second Club three-time winners.

Back in 2009 of the national club champion also includes three double at Makiling. They are Iggy Clavecilla Jr. with Alabang and Trini, Elena, Lanzo Panuncagan at the Tagaytay High, Isaias Maldicado and Jr. Bowo Fa Manila Golf and Hash Club.

Ed Rondon, winner of the season Globe, Inc., Rica C., Jack Nicklaus and among the hole sponsors.

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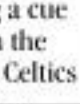
Ed Rondon, winner of the season

Taking a cue from the Boston Celtics



IN HUDDLE

Bernie Cleto

THIS IS HARD to believe but I was not in behind that I made a cameo. Sunset on Timeheads' from game recap of the 1EC PBA Philippine Cup championship series.

NOT THE I parent favorite and rarely used and found for the Aztec-backed team. Its best shot.

Hardnosed coach Yeng Guiyab and a was a coach Crunch during the pros on bronze held at the Gateway dunes pavilion. See the title series between the Smart and the Alaska Aces crowned.

"Remember during the previous you mentioned about the fact that I might get an idea on how to stop the triangle offense from the Boston Celtics Los Angeles Lakers finals series which by the for now won nine years ago?" Ryan asked after I congratulated him the day after his team swept the Finals to win the title.

Of course I remember. I even wrote about it in this column. Ryan was smiling, not loud during the previous that his team title trying to win a championship.

I gave an unsolicited advice. I told him to review the tapes of the 1983-2000 Boston-Los Angeles finals series.

"Ahh, I took your text," Ryan said. "I finished it in the last minutes Or, an opine who dissected the way the Celtics disrupted the rhythm of the triangle en route to winning the NBA Finals. It was helpful in our preparations against Ginebra."

"Thank you. The Reds. I don't think the others noticed your remarks, certainly but I certainly did."

"I just wanted to tell you that yes, it pays to listen to your elders," he joked.

He promised to show me the series one day "pero maraming sa," now time we hung him on hooks.

I believe, however, I should give credit where credit is due. After Ryan made the remark that he was still trying to figure out Tim Cone, the fellow strategy next to me, Raymund Cabe, stopped me and said "Remember that of the Celtics-Lakers finals series. Celtics coach Doc Rivers found a way to stymie Phil Jackson's patented Triangle Offense, forcing the Lakers into individual plays."

A few days ago, Eduardo Rubio posted something on my Facebook account.

He thanked me for the support I had given him 22 years ago when he was still active in boxing.

I requested Eduardo to tell me his whereabouts, but my reply kept bouncing back. He had probably deactivated his account.

Like Manny Pacquiao and Donnie Nietes, Rubio was a world champion, one of the best produced by our country during his reign. His title was wrested from him in a controversial split decision based on the United States and not by the local.

A highly respected columnist engaged me in a quarreling game the other night on the way out of a cocktail party. I watched with interest trying to figure out the identity of boxer there no professional.

"Can you guess who is this popular athlete who gifted his wife and his girlfriend diamond rings on Valentine's Day? The rings were not identical, of course. Just one of a pair," my fellow columnist asked.

"Ok, I'll give you an obvious one. Who is the muscular athlete who likes to play tennis opponents while sporting the gargoyle costume? The girl examples a flair on the ground floor, while the athlete's aim is on a higher level. He is very muscular-built, but his wife does not stay in the same apartment building."

My colleagues persisted to give me more but I gave hints, but only if I gave the right answers to the first two.

Nickalk grabs yellow jersey; Carera shines

By Jose Rivera

SUBIC— BARRING AN ACCIDENT, DENNIS Van Nickalk will be crowned the 2010 Giga wallet Petroleum Go Shoketers Asseries from KPOINT Hour of Gaston today.

The DMG rider from South African seized the overall lead from Canadian David Wolfcast of Rally Republic Stronger on yesterday after finishing third in the eighth stage won by Hazmat Green of Lipagay.

Nickalk finished one minute and 12.9 seconds behind Green and grabbed the yellow jersey with a total of 11.2 seconds going into today's final stage—a 51-lap criterium starting and ending at the Ayala Triangle in Makati City.

Carera won the 160-km criterium at Cubi Point in two hours, 39 minutes and 7 seconds with Americans Ward's Irish Velocipede finish in second and last 20-51 off the lap winners.

Nickalk, a 28-year-old uphill specialist from Johannesburg, has a total time of 19 hours, 28 minutes and 50.3 seconds. He started the day's second overall after placing second in the seventh stage behind teammate Jason Perry.

Wellnice clocked in fifth for the day with DMG skipper James Perry 1:10.93 behind Carera and gave up the overall lead he seized with a third place finish the other day.

"We'll control tomorrow's (today) race," said Nickalk, who has yet to win a multistage race in his six-year career. "The results fell and the conditioning that a eight-stage race from getting the title is no unexpected result."

Perry improved to third overall, 1:15.07 behind Nickalk, as Rally Republic Green captain Neil Hazmat stumbled out of the top five within a race finish yesterday.

Hazmat crossed the finish in 22nd place, trailing the Utah resident to ninth overall, 5:40.93 behind the leader.

Bobo Martine of Lipagay was the last placed rider among the homegrown riders after moving up to fourth overall (3:22.77) while Villaruneda (5:38.61), Santy Barnachea of Lipagay (4:08.02), Topsky's Jay Tolentino (5:19.26), Smarty Santos Hilarious (5:23.71) and Abi Calderon (6:27.94) were placed the top-10.

The event is hosted by UPCMA, Sen Ichiro Brown, Association Vivid, Burlington, Smart, Bangalon Select and Lipagay.

SOUTH African Dennis Van Nickalk (right) rides to the finish behind teammate and DMG skipper James Perry.

Que remains in Malaysian Open Top 10

KUALA LUMPUR—ANGELO QUE RALLIED with two birdies on his final five holes to notch par-72 in the Oael second and remain in contention for a top 10 finish in the $1 million Maybank Malaysian Open.

Starting the day tied for third with three others, the top Filipino chef-maker finished the 54th and with bogey to register three bogeys on the final nine and join a five-player tie for 19th place with a 54-hole of 209.

Que, who had similar rounds of 70-67, was actually only two strokes behind joint leaders Siddikur Rahman of Thailand and Rhys Davies of Wales, both at 13-under 203.

Mars Penny shot a second straight 70 for 213 while Jeffrey Fuguerao and Andre Lee also carded 73s to tie for 5th place at 217.

Siddikur, who was picked two years in a row by Basil after the second round with One, fired a 68 while Davies, the leader when the second round was suspended on Friday, added a 71 at the Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country Club.

Asian Tour Store

MITRA

Mitra rules Palawan race

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY, JOAN RYCE MI-ran outlasted country Jacob Kimbelly and local junior riders Ariel and Ernest Gomez in the Junior Rice event 2010 PBM Asian Motocross Series recently.

Mitra, who is backed by Oakley and Alfa Electrocycle Parts and Accessories, raced off from his rivals from the get-go to ride the premier junior category of the PBM Asian Motocross Series.

"I broke off right away to start of break (his) spirit," said Mitra, a 14-year-old from Kidapawan. "I'm glad I was able to consistently hold them off until the checkered flag."

An estimated 30,000 spectators mapped to the venue to witness the country's biggest international motorsport event, held under the auspices of the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association.

"The crowd really pumped me up," added Mitra, who clocked up 38 points to his close feat the Asian Junior Rice crown.

Elizabeth's second-place result was worth 44 points, while local rider Gazzio had 34 points.

For more information on the 2010 PBM Asian Motocross Series, log on to www.mcsaa.org.

ICTSI golf: Superal, Dy, Taguines still unbeated

PRINCESS SUPERAL, JED DY AND Aivan Taguines stretched their unbeaten runs to four each in the school season opener of the ICTSI Executive Golf Classic in various venues recently.

Superal scored a 72 for a seven-stroke win in girls Class B at the executive nine in the Alabang Golf and Country Club in Muntinlupa over as Dy and Taguines topped boys and girls Class E, respectively at the Capitol Hills layout in Mariana, Quezon City.

Eric Gallardo and Mona Lepage, meanwhile, cashed up their third straight wins in Class A.

Gallardo continued to dominate in the absence of top gun Miguel Tabuena and fired 73 par-big him a three-shot victory while Lepage also prevailed by three strokes.

Raymart Tolentino and Ian Brice needed their first wins in the series opposed by Philippine Airlines, McDonald's, Smart, Golf Depot and Subsect Interiors.

The fifth leg will be played today, Sunday March 7 at the Tee Pilipinas course.

Tolentino exploited the absence of Miguel Tabuena to climb up the Jnr. ranks in boys Class C after beating Aimee Quezon in a countback and Brice took girls Class B by a mere stroke.

Others winning at fellas were Mia Lepage (79) in girls' Class C, Justin Quilbot (76) in boys Class B and Ira Alida (88) in boys Class D. Regina de Guzman (76) and Lawrence Celestino (88) prevailed in the special division.

At Capitol, Josh Jorge and Marian Constantino joined the rampaging Dy and Taguines with confounding victories in the Chief Category.

PRINCESS Superal receives her trophy during the tournament's awarding ceremony.

SENIORS CHAMPIONS Ramon Hen Hoong Park and partner Bob Ruth (second and third from right) share the spotlight with Southwoods senior president Peping Cuan (left) and vice president Pure Gonzalez after bagging the Seniors' title in the first Manila Southwoods Senior Invitational tournament recently.

Japan bags doubles, seals Davis Cup deal

From page A12

Here, the Gilmore Guilfoyle-supported squad will face the loser of the ongoing Australian-Chinese Taipei tie in the next round to decide which team represents Group I.

Two years ago, Japan swept the Philippines in the final Memorial Texas Center with the Filipinos eventually ending up in Group 2 after losing to Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

The Uchido and the Kunida were tired their opponents the against China and Korea.

A day before, the 23-year-old Rhindy clinched a 6-7 (4), 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 defeat against Go Soeda after Tsuyoi carved the opening match, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, to Tatsuyoshi.

Asahi and Akamine are expected to play the recording current singles today against Soeda and Ito, respectively.

Bobcats post easy win vs tired Lakers

Pistons guard Rodney Stuckey collapses

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA— The Charlotte Bobcats handed the weary Los Angeles Lakers their first back-to-back, winning 99-81 in Wednesday's NBA action.

Stephen Jackson scored 21 points and Gerald Wallace added 17 points and 10 rebounds as Charlotte won its first game since Michael Jordan signed to buy the team.

Los Angeles had little energy a night and a flight after an overtime loss in Miami.

Kobe Bryant had 26 points on 9-of-21 shooting for the Lakers, who shot 38 percent and committed 20 turnovers.

In Cleveland, the Cleveland Cavaliers, 99-91, in a game that was delayed about three hours after Pistons guard Rodney Stuckey collapsed in the third quarter.

Stuckey was relieved off the court on a stretcher after he collapsed and fell unconscious.

He was in the arms of a coach. They was taken to 32 minutes as the medical staff worked on him, placing an oxygen mask on his face and offering him ice to ambulance.

Stuckey said he plays was stable, conscious and breathing on his way but would remain hospitalized overnight.

LeBron James had 40 points, 12 rebounds and six assists for the Miami Heat.

Dwyane Wade had 24 points for Miami, which lost its sixth straight.

In San Antonio, Tony Parker scored 25 points and San Antonio won its third straight, beating New Orleans, 100-91.

Manu Ginobili had 20 points for the Spurs, who extended their longest winning streak in nearly two months and swept the four-game season series from the Hornets.

Rookie Darren Collison had 22 points for New Orleans, including 16 in the fourth quarter, but the Hornets still dropped their fourth straight, their longest skid of the season.

In Dallas, the home team made it 10 straight wins by defeating Sacramento, 110-109.

Erick Dampier had 21 points and 12 rebounds, and rookie Rodrigue added a career-high 22 points. Brandon went 9 for 14 from the field and 3 for 4 on 3-pointers to 24-plus minutes, taking advantage of the absence of injured guard Jason Terry.

With the victory, the Mavericks climbed their 15th consecutive season over 500.

Carl Landry had 21 points for the Kings.

Hilton Angeles, Kevin Durant had 32 points and nine rebounds to lead Oklahoma City to a win over Los Angeles, 119-107.

It was Durant's 50th game this season with 30 or more points, tying the franchise record Spencer Haywood set with the 1972-73 Seattle SuperSonics.

The franchise All-Star ranked Cleveland's LeBron James by just one point of a point per game in their fight over the league's top average season.

In Philadelphia, Boston handed Philadelphia a fifth straight loss, 96-86.

Paul Pierce had 16 points and 11 assists and Kevin Garnett got 22 points for the Celtics, who didn't let the Sixers score a field goal over the final three minutes, and secured a third consecutive win.

AP

STAT HEROES: Knight: 32, Heat: 34, Knicks 127, Hornets 122, Raptors 102, Hawks 96, Bobcats 99, Pistons 91, Kings 87, Jazz 107

CHARLOTTE'S Raymond Felton tries to get around LA Lakers' Kobe Bryant.

Spain ties Switzerland; Russia, France up

MADRID—SPAIN'S DAVIS PHERES 2012, matched Rivero Chochinelli in straight sets, 6-2, 7-6, 6-1, to level the best-of-five tennis championship. Davis Cup Brit missed the opening Switzerland at 1-1 in Logroño on Friday.

Action of the eight World Group matches over under very second Europe, with the rest of Chile's tie at home to Israel delayed to Saturday because of the disruption caused by last week's deadly earthquake.

Russia entered year 2-0 advantage over visiting India, winning its first Monday and Jo-Wilfried Tsonga put France 2-0 up at home to Germany, and last year's finalists Czech Republic opened up 2-0 lead to Belgium.

The Swiss are building to become the first team to host the Spanish in 19 home ties stretching back to a defeat by Brazil in 1999. Spain also won the title in 2000, 2004 and 2008.

Juan-Ivan Wawrinka, leading the Swiss in the absence of world number one Roger Federer, drew first blood at the Plaza de Toros de Pelleas building when he route had-fitch finch a cut down to beat Nicolas Almagro, 3-6, 6-4, 3-6, 7-5, 6-3.

France cranked 1000 on the world, to the on it survive from last year's team, with Rafael Nadal (10), Fernando Verdasco (12) and Juan Carlos Ferrero (14-0) hit by injury.

The three-day first-of-five tie is finely balanced ahead of Saturday's doubles, when home pair Tommy Robredo and Marcel Granollers play Wawrinka and Yves Allegro.

Elsewhere, Sweden's Robin Soderling beat Eduardo Schwank, 6-1, 7-6, 7-5, in the opening singles in Stockholm to put the hosts ahead against Argentina. — Reuters

FEDERER scores

Grandsons show wares in Elorde Awards night

TWO GRANDSONS OF BOXING LEGEND Gabriel "Flash" Elorde will make their collective debuts against opponents in a special presentation during the 18th Elorde Memorial Boxing Awards Banquet of Champions on March 25 at the Harbour Inn of the Sofitel Hotel in Pasay.

Jonas Gil, 17, and Mary Rhodes, 23, who have a record of 9-0 with one knockout, will compete at 122 lb in a six-rounder while elder brother, 23, year-old John Marvin "Bad" Elorde (9-0, 6 KOs), will fight at Time at 132 lb in eight-rounder.

The bouts will be held prior to the main programme of the Elorde Memorial Awards Night, which will honor the top world, international and Philippine boxers as well as boxing personalities who had contributed to professional sports in the past year.

But now a former gold medalist at the Olympics, Rodolfo Biolena, is also set to be honored as one of the boxers who had contributed to professional sports in the past year.

But now a former gold medalist at the Olympics, Rodolfo Biolena, is also set to be honored as one of the boxers who had contributed to professional sports in the past year.

Jonas Gil, Jonas and Lito Elorde, both boxers have Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Management degrees.

World-ranked bantamweight Jerry Maicay Pequeno will be conferred the Athlete of the Decade award. He is expected to pass the award-night in guest of honor and speaker.

The awards night is to commemorate the 25th death anniversary and 75th birth anniversary of "Da Flash" and the 50th year from the time he started his ring career as world junior lightweight champion in 1960.

Gil Elorde

SPORTSWATCH

Ateneo de Zamboanga Alumni golf set March 19

THE ATENEO DE ZAMBOANGA UNIVERSity Alumni Association Incorporated will host a golf tournament at the Valley Golf and Country Club in Malagutay on March 19. Tee-off time will be 8 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Alumni president Paul Pe said the tourney aims to raise funds to support the Alumni de Zamboanga Faculty Development Program, which supports scholars in their graduate studies.

For more information, contact the association at 0918-9108558 or Junior Pangilinan at 0918-9108564 and 0916-9001162, lawyer Jose Dorado at 0917-5258888 and Fred Suarez at (082) 421-1000.

Young triumphs in Clark

DEFENDING EVENT CLASS CHAMPION Dominic Young of Team Subic Bay is all set to open his title defense as he joined six other Subic-based drivers in qualifying for the 2010 National Rally Racing Championship and 2010 CPR Bladder Rally Racing Championship Northern Series at the Clark International Speedway.

Young, barely beating the hour's busiest after being beaten by Benj Lopez in their first elimination run, but he redeemed himself on top, turning back Toronto designer duo in the Enzo-pair overall win by the winner's bracket.

DSCPI tourney on March 13

THE 2010 TOP SLOTS TO METRO BOWLING is a competitive league, on March 13 when the Development Council of the Philippines, Inc. sets to host another bowling and competition at the Rizal Bowling Stadium in Manila.

DSCPI president Becky Garcia said there are 16 slots for potential representatives in various competitions like the Guangzhou Asian Games in November.

International Bowling Federation is crowned selected pairs from Netherlands, Germany, Japan, China, Malaysia and Venezuela attending the event. Each pair is to be a new debut.

Nonoy Quintos, 54

ROMULO MANILA (MANILA) DR. EDUARDO "Nonoy Lit" Quintos Jr. succumbed to cardiac arrest and confined in the Capital Big Hospital, last March 7.

Quintos, at the time of his death was Senior Science Regulation Officer of the Philippine Sports Commission, is survived by wife Alicia and daughter Gabrielle Ellen.

His remains lie in state at the Manila Chapel, & Mass will be celebrated at 6:30 a.m. on Wednesday at the Sacred Heart of the Manila City General, to be followed by a necrological service.

TNT's Vargas blasts recycled referees, 'judgment calls'

By Manny R. Casello

JAMES "JAY THE PHILIPPINE Basketball Association has a "responsibility to the fans over their unwavering efforts," the Talk 'N Text squad yesterday testified to review verdicts while blasting the league for its disjoint rules in officiating.

"There is always room to put the refers to right. I am very thanks and the Hon Steve branched from it, too, "said TNT board representative Ricky Vargas in a statement sent to the Inquirer late night hour yesterday.

"We hope that the sacrifice does not go in vain," he said, referring to the Tropang Texters' walkout in Game 3 of its quarterfinal series with Barangay Ginebra in the KFC-PBA Philippine Cup.

The walkout with still a minute left in the third quarter down a four of more than Pt. 2 million.

"Even a death penalty is not a deterrent for those who stand on cheap principle and values of integrity and fair play."

Vargas' statement was in reaction to an Inquirer report that quoted Alaska owner Wilfred Steven Uytengsu as saying that an appeal-

VARGAS

ing for an overturn that will not be a better game "is a bargain if you can endure the embarrassment."

In a separate phone interview Friday night, Vargas had asked what the league has done to improve officiating, which he described "as the symptoms of a problem that has been there for the longest time."

Possibly softspoken, Vargas said that the league has spent so much money on a lot of things but has held back on spending for a solid referees' training program that could finally make the league global.

"What we have [in technical offices] are [retired] basketball players who hide behind the so-called judgment call," he said. "Every time there is a blunder, they say it's a judgment call.

Vargas, who's name as bat on suggesting that the league drop its pool of referees and put the job up for bidding at the start of each season or conference, like what the UAAP and the NCAA have been doing.

"The public and the teams deserve to watch a game that is not only well-played, but more importantly, officiated well," Vargas said.

DOUBLE VICTORY: Iglesia Sports coalition and Philippine Sportswriters Association president Tolentino Hukodan (left) congratulates Executive for his motorsport achievements that earned him a distinction during the PSA-Coca Cola Awards Night on March 1 at The Manila Hotel. On the same night, Pozon's younger brother Enzo (right) was named Driver of the Year by the Samahang Ilocandia of the Philippines in separate rites at the Pagoda Cuneta Filipino Theater in Pasay city. The brothers' father, Tom, manages their careers.

IT giant Acer, Olympic Mov't join forces

LEADING IT PRODUCTS MAKER Acer and the Olympic Movement have joined forces to highlight the excellence of athletes through technology and innovation on the biggest sporting stage in the world.

For the recently concluded Vancouver Winter Games, Acer provided more than 6,000 pieces of computing equipment and dispatched 30 engineers and technicians.

Acer is expected to repeat, if not surpass, the expertise it will lend during the 2012 Summer Olympics in London.

As sponsor, Acer is now a worldwide The Olympic Partner (Top), a program established more than 20 years ago. It's the only sponsorship with exclusive worldwide marketing rights for both Winter and Summer Games.

Developed by the International Olympic Committee, Top gives leading global corporations the chance to support the organization and staging of the Olympic Games.

Leverage of the sport reaches billions of people in more than 200 countries and territories globally.

Sunday SPORTS

Editor: Teddyvic S. Philostrate

Pharex crushes Cossack crew; AddMix scores

(2nd to—Continued from C)
4 p.m.—Ateneo against La Salle/Letang Tirol

By Jasmine W. Payo

PHAREX D COMPLEX DEMOLISHED THE UNbeaten run of Cossack Blue with a 99-66 rout yesterday in the PBL PC Pico-Ernee Pineda Cup at the FEUD Flying V Arena in San Juan.

The Maroons, who started with a 10 percent shooting clip in the first half, also dented the Aguilas' six overnight semifinal berth while tying their slotless for the lead at 4-1.

"Coach (Aldin) Ganuelas said that for us to be No. 1, we got to have that killer instinct," said Maroons forward Woody Co, who got Pharex off to a flyer start to finish with a game-high 18 points.

AddMix similarly posted a blowout in the first game, going on a 22-3 run in the third period to post the league's most lopsided victory in 11 years with a 90-49 blasting of winless Agribusiness PCA.

"It doesn't matter if we win by one point or hang an ear closed out the game well, that's the important thing for me," said coach Leo Austria after his Transformers improved to 2-3.

The 41-point victory was just three points off the league record of 44 which Bel Bell achieved in its 89-45 crushing of Montalbo Heralding on May 17, 1999.

Vic Manuel, a revelation from the Philippine School of Business Administration, delivered more for the Maroons with 13 points and ten boards.

"We wanted to stop their small guys," said Castro. "We wanted to defend the perimeter and contest their big guys."

The Maroons held Jonas Martinez to just nine markers after leading the Aguilas with a 20-point average in the previous games.

The scores:

First Game

ADDMIX 90—Rosales 17, Tolentino 14, Manuel 13, Gallarza 10, Cabahug 8, Tolibas 6, Mangahis 5, Ampongan 4, Cuizon 4, Cuizon 3, Mendoza 2, Galman 2, Pineda 2, Ramirez 2, Alcantara 2

AGRIBUSINESS PCA 49—Cagay 16, Calimlim 7, Sison 6, Pascual 5, Velasquez 5, Lazaro 5, Alvarez 3, Mallari 3, Acosta 3, Santillan 2, Pascual 1, Ubaldo 0, Rosario 0.

Quarters: 22-11, 43-33, 67-39, 90-49

Second Game

PHAREX D COMPLEX 99—Co 18, Manuel 13, Arizapa 10, Ana 10, Austria 8, Adolfo 8, Martelino 7, Magalong 6, Agustin 4, Tolentino 4, Lopez 3, Chua 3, Arriesgado 2, Bautista 2, Tan 1

COSSACK BLUE—Tolentino 19, Tagaran 16, Martinez 12, Ocampo 5, Sagmanit 4, Dungcas 3, Ocampo 2, Alcantara 2, Lorca 1, Gonzales 1, Bonifacio 0, Rivera 0

Quarters: 22-11, 48-28, 72-48, 99-66

Chavez Jr. picks Pacquiao to win by UD over Clottey

By Ray Lauzon

HOLLYWOOD—THE YOUNG, TALL and good-looking young man slipped quietly into the Wild Card Gym Friday and sensitive keenly as Manny Pacquiao trained.

He stayed for nearly two hours as Pacquiao lumbered through 12 rounds of mitt-session with trainer Freddie Roach before punishing the double-ended bag and speedball.

After issuing a challenge to fight Pacquiao, unbeaten junior middleweight Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. now seems to have changed his mind.

"Maybe someday," said the 28-year-old Julio, son and namesake of the former world junior lightweight champion and lineal welterweight legend Chavez Sr.

Chavez, who stands nearly 6-foot tall, told Filipino sportswriters that Pacquiao is a great fighter and without doubt, the world's best at the moment.

Though Chavez, owner of an impressive 45 (30 knockouts)-0-1 record, picked Pacquiao to beat Clottey by unanimous decision, he thinks the Filipino ring icon is in for a tough defense of his World Boxing Organization welterweight crown on March 13 at the Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

"Clottey is also good and tough,"

CHAVEZ

said Chavez Jr., who's slated to fight in June against a yet to be named opponent after serving a suspension for having traces of a prohibited substance on his system.

Chavez appeared in the undercard of the Pacquiao-Miguel Cotto showdown last Nov. 14, where he was victimized by a controversial scoring decision with over Tony Bannland.

His decision over Rowland was in stark contrast with the explosive show of Pacquiao, who stopped the bigger Cotto in 12 rounds to become the only boxer to hold seven titles in as many divisions.

Atilano caps season with AAP award

ATILANO

YOUNG DRIVER BOBBY ATILANO CAPPED the racing season with a recognition from the Automobile Association Philippines during the season AAP awards night.

Atilano was cited for his eight consecutive wins that gave him the overall Philippine Production Car Championship crown.

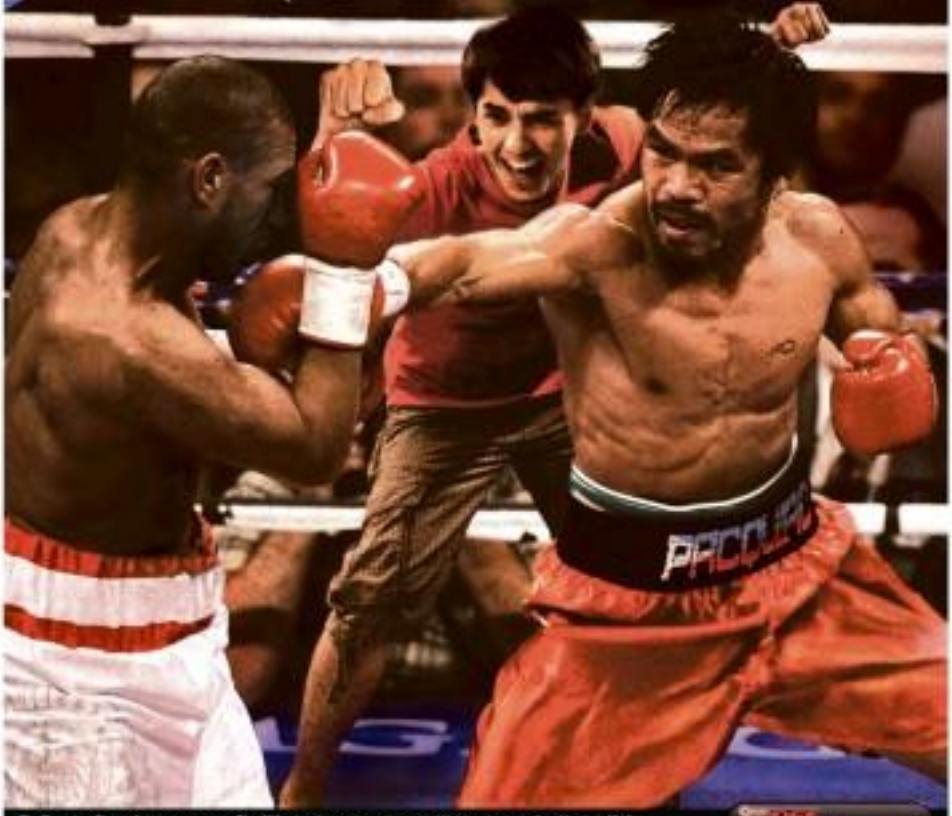
"Indeed, this is one priceless trophy that I will cherish, it has been a blissful racing year and I thank the AAP and my sponsors for their huge support," said Atilano.

With his latest feat, Atilano now plans to move up to a higher class up against the best of the best this season.

Atilano has also put up mybro-gan.com.ph to post-endorsements with Cadena Chevron and hopes that given private car owners P1,000 worth of assembly free gas in exchange for a sticker that will be posted on the rear windshield. Interested vehicle owners may log on to mybrogan.com.ph for details.

PLDT myDSL Watchpad brings more fans closer to the action.

Because you asked for it, the Pacquiao-Clottey fight is now open even to Plan 890 Watchpad users. Experience a bigger and better Watchpad as it streams the fight LIVE and FREE with no commercial breaks on March 14, 2015. What's more, confirmation is extended until March 11, 2015.



The Pacquiao-Clottey fight is now open to Plan 990 subscribers who registered to Watchpad on or before March 1, 2015.
The fight is also open to all residential subscribers of Plans 1299 and up. Log on to www.pldtwatchpad.com.
Not yet a Watchpad user? Register first to Watchpad then confirm your enrollment. For existing Watchpad users, only confirmation is required. A confirmation letter will be sent within 48 hours.

watch-pad
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Business Features Editor Margie Quiroga-Espino

Sunday BIZ

THE LAMBAAG (see, named after the Philippine equivalent to the Satyr, and the Tikbalang bag (above), named after the Philippine goddess of the stars. Both are designed by Cora Jacobs.

Homework

By Anneliz S. Tayao

HERE'S A LESSON FOR STUdents: Never take your homework for granted, because it might just win you an award—and a trip abroad as well.

In the case of five students from the Ateneo de Manila University, it was their feasibility project which won them the recognition of having the best business concept in a **small entrepreneur** at the finalists in Dr. Velayo-Jimei ISEO Challenge Philippines 2009. Their project, Jacinto & Lito Balloon Bags made from water hyacinth leatherette, also got them a website development package, P500,000 and a trip to The Hague, Netherlands, to join other entrepreneurs at the ISEO Network Week.

The awarding ceremony was held Feb. 24 at the SGV Hall of the Asian Institute of Management in Makati, where Jacinto & Lito bested 22 other hopefuls for the top spot. ISEO Challenge Philippines is an annual competition hosted by the ISEO Network Foundation in partnership with the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP).

The group also bagged the Foundation for a Sustainable Society Triple Bottomline Award, which awarded them P50,000.

The brains behind Jacinto & Lito are: Maria Charmagne Cruz, finance and operations director; Anne Krystle Mariposa, marketing and sales director; Ironeen Marian Bacolod, R&D and social entrepreneurship director; Patricia Anne Lallosa, marketing and creative director; and Ryan Pelingon, legal affairs and logistics director. All are Management students and graduates under Ateneo's Business Management Inkwell accelerator Program.

"The aim of the program is for students to start their own business and, hopefully, continue it after college," says Mariposa.

It was for this program that the group created Jacinto & Lito. They started, however, not with the idea of balloon bags, but with packaging.

"With the growing effort to reduce plastic use, we wanted a product that would help in conserving our environment," says Mariposa. "Ironeen's (Bacolod) aunt, who is from DTI, introduced us to using water hyacinth as our raw material, since they are also becoming an ecological problem because they multiply at a very fast rate."

After consulting with different government agencies, the group encountered major problems with their initial concept. The material, they realized, was too expensive to be used for packaging. "For the packaging idea to work, we needed to manufacture the products in large quantities, and that was something we couldn't do yet, given our resources," Mariposa adds. There was also the issue of market competition.

"So we thought, why not go for something that required a lower volume of products? And we decided we wanted something fun...that's how the concept of fashion bags was injected," Mariposa says.

"Jacinto" and "Lito" are Spanish for "hyacinth" and "lily," respectively. At first, Mariposa and her groupmates tried to make the bags themselves, after experiencing problems with their first supplier.

"We were thinking the bags in school, trying on all sorts of adhesives," says Mariposa. They soon saw the need to seek help in production, and were referred to representatives from DTI Laguna who already had experience in weaving water hyacinth.

They have also collaborated with a community of workers in Bulacan trained by

MORE DETAILS, B2

PATRICIA Anne Lallosa

They decided they wanted something fun, hence, the fashion bags

JOSE Ryan Pelingon and Ironeen Marian Bacolod

MA. CHARMAGNE Celine Cruz and Anne Krystle Mariposa

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'Sikwate stop' at the foot of Davao's summer capital

Special cocoa for travel-weary souls in Tagum City

By Fritzie Lim
Inquirer Mindanao

TAGUM CITY—ON A DUSTY, bumpy road leading to Davao region's summer capital is a quaint, rural stop where you can sip a cup of hot, rich cocoa, locally known as *sikwate*, even in the dead of night.

And if you have extra money to spare, there's a tasty saccharine *pasa* (rice cake) to go with it.

For the weary and starving human traffic on and travelers bound for resorts in Compostela Valley's Mawapanas town, *Al'sikwate ug Kan-anan* in Barangay Magangit, New Bataan, is a welcome oasis in the middle of an unpaved national road linking the two towns.

Most of the customers of this snack stop are truck drivers working for big banana companies in Mawapanas or farmers trying their luck at a gold-rich site near the town, according to owner Arnold Flores.

The establishment takes pride in its rich *sikwate*, brewed from tablea, or cocoa tablet, which the village is producing in abundance.

The business was conceived last year when prices of dried cacao seeds—from which cocoa is made—fell at the local market, Flores says.

"I would be losing much if I sell my cocoa at (the local market), so I had to look for another way," he says.

Compostela Valley has over 2,000 hectares of land planted to cocoa, and farm areas are centered mainly in upland towns like Laak and New Bataan, according to Manolo Caylan, assistant provincial agriculturist.

Flores has a one-hectare cocoa planta-

A MAN sips a pot containing a cocoa concoction locally known as "*sikwate*" (above). Truckers and travelers frequently stop by the roadside establishment where hearty meals are served (at right and below).

tion with a bumper harvest of 1.5 metric tons per hectare. Prices have also gone up to P80 per kilo from P60 last year.

"Before, we only sell our harvest to middlemen who bring the cocoa to the processors in Davao. Now, we can sell directly to the consumers," he says.

Flores said he was also encouraged to open the business after he saw the potential of the tablea as a delicacy when he was still working in Davao City.

"I like the variety of flavors. We can get information where you want to travel, I also like the seminars," said Filipino-Jonathan Hernandez who attended such his wife.

Hernandez said he also enjoyed the assistance of travel book authors Arthur and Pauline Hermanes who presented survey maps on trips and destinations and the best deals for travelers this year. They signed copies of their books.

"It's very informative, we learned about how to get better deals on travel. We plan to go to Europe and the Philippines," he said.

Other speakers took the audiences on a Subic adventure to experience the history, culture and breathtaking beauty of diverse Northern European countries like Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. They promoted cultural heritage tours, spa vacations, spirit and pilgrimages, nature getaways and journeys to Jewish Vilnius.

Other travelers attended a seminar on Cuba, a big destination for Canadians and Europeans but a forbidden land for Americans. The ruins to lift travel restrictions in Cuba have reached crescendo as travelers at the show urged President Obama to allow non-sector travel to Americans and open the door to many travelers.

Jules Mesquiti of Island Industry Network on Cuba said during the New York Times Travel Show Saturday that he has written 25 letters to President Obama to urge the President to authorize generic licenses for investments to help travel to Cuba for educational, cultural, religious, humanitarian and sports travel.

The Spanish embassy featured its famously rich and vibrant cities and counted Barcelona and Madrid as wonderful cities, showing off its splendid architectural designs, historical sites, art and museums. It also offered its beaches with crystal clear waters of the Canary Islands.

Stephanie Abrams, a travel expert and radio show host guided the audiences through the tastes of airport lounges, airline accommodations, cruises, duties and baggage regulations and other rules.

Cultural shows

Cultural shows from Asia stage, Caribbean stage, Central America and Mexico stage showcased talents and cultures of different countries.

Ines Ozkok of Turkey passionately played wooden flutes and PVC pipe to present folk songs of Turkey. He also played an ancient oboe capturing the hearts of the audiences.

Lithuanian soloists Philippe Cruz-Abaete and Yojan Jambas dressed in their native dresses, sang folk songs about plant and dances to entertain the crowds at the European stage.

"We want to help to keep our traditions alive by singing our folk songs," said Lini Rabbi.

The Japan National Tourism Organization members were dressed in colorful Kimono and danced on stage to present a cultural performance.

Selected hotels of Ireland and their staff presented a cultural performance to show the rich heritage of Ireland.

The Puerto Rico Tourism Company energized the crowds with Latin and African sounds and played several cases of wonderful rhythms of "Danza Puerto" and Salsa tunes.

Participants immersed themselves on various cultures amid the backdrop of engaged luncheon runway and food-grown lounge.

Everyone smiled to show they were having fun and were ready to take a push of wonderful travelling. Many participants were ready for a romantic getaway, eager to create lifelong memories with their families and partners.

Many were drawn to exhibits of nature, outdoor recreation, beaches, scenic countries, and tournaments.

"We want to show that the Philippines is a beautiful option for tourism. There's a big competition here, we need to be here to showcase the Philippines as a destination," said Vida.

RP tourism takes center stage at the NY Times Travel Show

By Carmela Rita Bautista
Contributor

NEW YORK—THE PHILIPPINES took center stage at the New York Times Travel show last weekend, featuring its panoramic sights, islands, beaches, culture and foods.

"Philippine cuisine features a tasty blend of various cultures, a legacy of the country's rich history," said Emma Ruth Tiro, chief of Philippine Tourism based at the Philippine Consulate.

Tiro said her assistant demonstrated how to cook the famous "Adobo Chicken" must applause of the crowds as they tasted the adobo with "pandesal."

Tiro said the mixture of Malay, Chinese and Spanish influences has compromised Filipino traditional cooking style that is uniquely Filipino. Unlike the rest of Southeast Asia, Philippine cuisine is not spicy except for the Ilocos region in Northern Luzon where savory food spicy delights using coconut milk and pepper.

Philippine Consul General Cecile Rebong also showed audiences how to make "halo-halo" as the multi-colors served on the sweet camplings of it. She mixed fruits with ice and sugar to demonstrate how to make the dessert to the amuse of tourism conferences.

Thousands attend

Thousands attended the Travel Show exhibit at Jacob Javits convention from Feb. 26 to Feb. 28. The biggest travel show in the North East offered glimpse of culture and scenic spots of different countries. It featured 50 seminars with more than 50 top travel industry executives, the seminars provided comprehensive overviews of the travel industry's home 500 exhibitors representing 150 countries participated at the Travel Show.

"I like the variety of destinations. You can get information where you want to travel, I also like the seminars, " said Filipino-Jonathan Hernandez who attended such his wife.

Hernandez said he also enjoyed the assistance of travel book authors Arthur and Pauline Hermanes who presented survey maps on trips and destinations and the best deals for travelers this year. They signed copies of their books.

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BPO creates exciting careers for RP workers

AS MORE AND MORE COMPANIES OUTsource their non-core functions to achieve high performance, new jobs are invariably created in the Philippines. Among the most in-demand local jobs today are those to be found in finance and accounting (F&A) BPO companies.

Accenture, a global management consulting, technology services and outsourcing firm, is one of the market leaders in F&A BPO having pioneered the first major finance outsourcing deal with one of the largest petroleum and petrochemical companies, BP/Amoco, in 1994.

Accenture's distinct advantage as a provider of F&A BPO services lies in our expertise and experience to help companies support core business services and functions to improve business performance and achieve measurable business outcomes," said Accenture's Philippines country lead.

Accenture provides end-to-end F&A BPO services from order-to-cash (accounts receivables) to procure-to-pay (accounts payables) to record-to-report (general accounting) to a wide range of clients worldwide, mostly Fortune 500 companies, across different industries. Thus, Accenture's F&A BPO practice has a constant demand for analysts, team leaders and managers to accounts payable, accounts receivables and general accounting.

"F&A BPO work presents vast learning and growth opportunities for people to enhance their analytical ability and hone their leadership skills," said Hernandez. "And because Accenture is continuously growing, and caters to a wide range of clients, there is the opportunity for any person joining the company now to move into two to three different roles within two or three years."

WINNERS! From, senior advisor at BIO Network, with BIO Challenge Philippines winners Eric Cielo and Roy Saiz of Kampayan Tech Bamboo Bikes

HIGHER Business Challenge finalists Ms. Nina Lacson and Ms. Lourdes Molera with (center) Lianne van Rooijen, BIZ Network consultant for Southeast Asia

Homework

From page B6

the Cora Cares Foundation, headed by handling designer lawyer Corazon Jacob. By collaborating with the foundation, the J&L group also provides sustainable livelihood to women in marginalized communities.

"We're happy that we have a product that also creates a social impact," says Blanquera. The group is also working with a community in Laguna for the manufacturing of their bags, and also currently in the process of tying up with other workers from the community of the Gilman Resettlement Program.

In time, they plan to pay the workers already for the labor instead of outsourcing, which is their current setup with their suppliers.

"One of the reasons why our bags are a bit pricey is because of the amount we spend on the workers' wages," says Blanquera. J&L prices range from P2,400-P6,100. They are currently being sold at Fitmax (Greenhills), Felicity (Shangri-La Plaza), Terrie (Greenhills) and Cora Jacobs (Ayala museum and gift section).

And since they are graduating this March, the group is also starting to plan how they can continue the business once they leave their school. "We'll most probably go on our separate ways, since we want to experience working for a company that we will definitely continue LBEL," says Bautista.

For now, however, the J&L group is focusing all its efforts in preparing the bags for BIO Network's Pitch, which will take place on May 20 to June 3. Together with representative from BIO Network's partner countries, J&L will get the chance to see, work and learn from other entrepreneurs as well.

Two other groups will be joining J&L at BIO Network's Pitch: Kampayan Tech Bamboo Bikes by Robbie Kawayan Sels, like J&L, will get the chance to join the Global BIO Challenge, which will pitch them against 20 other international entries hoping to win the 25,000-euros grant. Last year it was the Payatas rag-bag business, Bags2Bricks, which won the international competition.

Kawayan Tech Bamboo Bikes are eco-friendly bamboo frame bicycles, created by

SUCCESS! Trinidad, (4th) and networking head of Partners 4, Primex, PEP Bank SME Solutions, BIO Challenge Philippines winners Rene Bryalle Chino Marijuna and Warren Bautista of Jacinto & Lirio; Maria Victoria Lopez-Vito, country officer and PBEF trustee

cycling enthusiasts. The group behind this product aims to maximize local resources, thereby providing livelihood opportunities to poor communities and at the same time reducing the carbon footprint. They also plan to further explore other technologies, products and services in which bamboo can be utilized.

Kawayan Tech, on the other hand, will be competing against only four entries, since it is categorized under the Women in Business Challenge, one of BiD's unique components. Kawayan Tech will be producing bikinis for kids made from scrap mahogany wood.

Microsoft set on China course despite Google spat

UK study proposes disclaimer for airbrushed ads

LONDON—IN A STUDY IT commissioned, the British government has proposed posting disclaimers on digitally altered images of models, warning consumers that the too-perfect women staring at them from a fashion magazine is, in fact, too perfect.

But Britain's ad watchdog is said to like the proposal, and the publishing industry said more time was needed to uncover the stories.

"We still receive very very few complaints on the airbrushing issue," Advertising Standards Agency spokeswoman Matt Wilson said, adding that his organization already had the power to act when airbrushed ads were offensive or misleading.

He noted that the agency had acted last year when an ad for Olay eye cream featuring model Twiggy had the wrinkles around the 58-year old's eyes removed electronically.

But as to the general issue of doctored photos, Wilson said that would be for the industry to decide.

The Periodical Publishers Association, which represents Britain's 6 billion pound ($9.1 billion) magazine and business media industry, said it's a statement that more evidence was needed before deciding to start slapping disclaimers on photos, adding that the issue was "incredibly complex."

The report, authored by psychologist and media professor Linda Papadopoulos, said that "when girls evaluate themselves against unrealistic airbrushed images it cultivates a feeling of falling short of not being 'good enough.'"

She recommended that images should be shrunk to make clear if real or not. Models had been altered.

The issue of airbrushing has arisen periodically in the UK, and further attention was drawn in the issue in October when a model in a Ralph Lauren advertisement was so dramatically photoshopped that her waist was left looking smaller than her head. Ralph Lauren said the image was displayed by mistake, but the freakish photo sparked outrage across the internet.

Opponents Liberal Democrat lawmaker Jo Swinson has championed moves to force advertisers to post disclaimers that photos have been doctored, but the proposal has yet to become law.

Nevertheless, a steady stream of photoshopped advertisements—including 10 allegedly touched-up political posters featuring a particularly smooth-faced opposition Liberals Conservative Party chief David Cameron—have kept the issue in the public eye.

Britain's government said it was studying the report's advice. AP

Microsoft to invest $650M in R&D, outsourced projects

BEIJING—MICROSOFT SAID on Friday that it would stick to its development strategy for the China Internet search market regardless of the success of Google's high-profile spat with Beijing.

Microsoft has kept a relatively low profile in China since Google announced its decision to potentially withdraw from the market over censorship issues and following an attack on its systems that it believes originated in China.

Microsoft chief executive Steve Ballmer previously said his company had no plans to pull out of China.

He also indicated that the company would not likely follow Google's lead in challenging a Chinese system that forces Internet firms to self censor their sites on sensitive topics.

"Regardless of whether or not Google exits, we still aggressively promote our search and cloud computing (in China)," Zhang Yaqin, chair of Microsoft's Asia-Pacific R&D Group, told Reuters on Friday on the sidelines of the opening of the National People's Congress in Beijing.

Microsoft plans to spend about $500 million on research and development in China this year, and another $150 million on outsourced projects, Zhang added.

Reuters

Former lady warrior creates 'halal' soap

From page B4

as it gained popularity among Muslims and Christians in southern Philippines.

In 1999, Miss Universe first runner-up Melinda Quintos came to Cotabato City just to launch the soap. Today, their roster of clients includes high-ranking politicians, the rich and famous in the city, and even the Christian communities in the region.

Although Karen has always wanted to reach the big stores, her main goal now is for the Dilamonic products to get the Bureau of Food and Drug certification, but this will bid them goodbye to Datu Unsay classes to fund a production plant.

In 2003, the Muslim Mindanao Halal Certification Board certified the Dilamonic soap as first halal soap sold in the market. By having halal certification, Muslim consumers are guaranteed that the goods they buy and use are prepared in accordance with Muslim traditions and religious requirements.

With its success in the Islamic city, Karen says the local government had established links with other halal certifying bodies in other countries, especially in South-East Asia.

"Potentially, businesses will see the benefits of going halal. The halal industry will play a big role in the region's economy in the coming years," Karen says.

THE 'PALAMANDI' aside care line will soon make its way to the Middle East.

Christian patron

Amor Ordinanez does not look her age. In her early 40s, her clear velvety skin radiates health. Her secret—a scented beauty soap which she humbly and piles in her dresser. Loved by women she never imagined could melt such a miracle, the soap never failed. Amor since she started using it in 1999.

Today, even her entire barangay (village) here where the soap suffered the birth pangs, and loved its boom owing to its large followers now. Thailand, she bought as volunteer for her home.

"Some will go to the Middle East and Singapore soon. Friends know of the benefits I get from continually using the soap," Amor says.

Only one woman is credited to her youthful, glowing skin—Karen—and Amor never ceases to thank her.

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Mr. Steven Hacker, President, AEE
Global Fair Work Inc.

Asian Perspective: The Power of Exhibits and Events
Speaker: Mr. Mark Cochrane
Managing Director, Business Strategist Group, CEO, KnowPeople, Hong Kong

Green Exhibiting: Less Cost, Big Impact
Speaker: Mr. Michael Tompkins
Marketing Director, Skyline Exhibits
Inside Minneapolis in the Sun

Experiment the Message: How Experiential Marketing is Changing the Brand World
Speaker: Mrs. Tina Lundenmark
Author, Director, Exhibitions at Dragon, Model + Magnetic
Inside Hong Kong

Leveraging Social Media in Events to Drive Better Engagement and Results
Speaker: Lisa McCulloch-Carter
President, InsideOut
Canada

Refurbishment: Customer Experience All the Substantive
Speaker: Mr. Frederick Brandt
Director Design Division, Imagination (USA) Inc.
Based Los Angeles, USA

DAY TWO - Friday, April 30: The Future is WOW!

Organizing Event with Shoestring Budget
Mr. Johnny Sun
CEO, Centralized Events Asia Inc. Malaysia and Thailand
Thailand

EVENTS Latest Tool: Getting the Best ROOI on your Event
Mr. Brian Haven
President, EVENTSNET, Panoramic Group, LLC
El Lago, Mexico

Entertainment and Production: Event Staging and Technicians with a WOW Factor
Speaker: Mr. Mark Gordon, COO - CEO, Mark Gordon Productions,
Author
Washington D.C. Metro Area

Case Study: Brand Activation Experience
Speaker: Mr. Eduardo A. Brandt
Global Insight Director, Imagination (USA) Inc.
Based Los Angeles Area

Event Safety and Security: How to Throw Responsible Customer Events!
Mr. Brian Tan, CEO, SB
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Hong Kong

The Future is NOW! The Future is NOW! - 10 Cool New Things To Make Your Events WOW
Speaker: Hubert Bingen, CEO, HB
President, Experience Matters, Special Event Designer, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
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Sunday BIZ

"Most soap is laden with pork oils ... a no-no for us Muslims"

Former lady warrior creates 'halal' soap

RAMON Karon

By Rosa Mia-de Guzman
Inquirer Mindanao

A FORMER WOMAN WARRIOR OF the country's most feared rebel group has the answer to the needs of Muslim women who believe they are defying Allah's teaching by using pork fat-laden skin care products as Islamic "halal" soap.

Bernardeta Karon, a former Moro National Liberation Front fighter, is marketing skin care products called "Palamuda," which she says "has the religious leaf permissible under the Islamic Law. The soap is without animal fats which Islamic countries haram or forbidden.

"Most soap is laden with pork oils, a no-no for us Muslims, so I tried hard to look for a soap that is halal," Karon says. "Halal" is the Arabic term that means pure, and refers to a way of life that is shariah Islamic rules.

The potential market for halal soap in the country is huge, according to Karon, an estimated one million Filipino Muslims ready in the country, and the goal of Palamuda is to reach out to them.

In Cotabato City and across the region, the product called Palamuda Papaya Whitening soap is earning out a niche in women and their entire blood.

"Most of our clients are women who are aware that not all soaps are Muslim-friendly," says Karon.

Today, a growing number of Muslim are using the soap, which Karon sees as an effort by her followers to reconnect to their roots through what they use and wear. "This is a good sign for Palamuda to be confident in its marketing tool as it becomes an Islamic identity for soaps in the region."

But the good returns in the business are not Karon's main concern. Though there is a clear market for halal, she is not looking on its rising economic trend for personal lifestyles.

For her, Palamuda is not just a business but the target goal is to expound to Muslim's cultural empowerment underscoring livelihood to her former colleagues in the mountains who gave up the armed struggle in exchange of the signed peace deal with the MNLF in 1996.

Birth of halal soap

Karon recalls her love-hate story with bath soaps. "I've always wondered what it is to soap that leave the skin greasy. Until I discovered that most soaps makers are mixed fat in its common ingredient."

She then searched for soaps that do not contain animal fats, but failed. Then a big idea struck her.

In 2009, Karon, as head of the Federation of the United Mindanao Bangsamoro Women Multipurpose Cooperative, she won a proposal for soap production in the DTI Food and Agri-affair Cooperatives which allowed 24 officers to push for economic and capability skills of former women guerrillas.

When the proposal was approved, Karon, along with 30 former women warriors, went on study tour to various medium companies in the Visayas and major cities in Mindanao to get a deeper grasp of the business context.

While other members are assistance found good fortune in meat and fish processing, weaving, and handicraft production, Karon came up with the perfect formulations of soap according to Muslim standards.

The Department of Health taught them how to make soap using papaya as the main ingredient, while the multi-donor United Nations' Action Peace Program prepared metabolizers for the women to implement the project.

With 20 workers, the team came up with regular bottom soap that contains pure papaya extract, other plant herbals, and essential coconut oil which Karon named Palamuda Whitening Soap, a soap for all skin types.

Through Palamuda soap, Karon was able to realize her dream of helping former colleagues in the mountains that she desires the same vision with. "The business supports their families and develops their skills in entrepreneurship," she says.

The workers devote their days to soap-making, a task they consider an enjoyable leisure-time activity inside a small room, according to Jakiri Abdul, the administrative officer of the women's organization.

She illustrates how the soap is done: They dissolve lye in water, weigh out the coconut oil, stir until smooth, add the extracts, pour it into Rayon-lined molds. They wait for it to harden, cut it into blocks, and in five to seven days, the soapy bars of the Palamuda whitening soap is ready.

The workers learned of the efficacy of the papaya whitening soap and first introduced the product to their friends and relatives. What spread that the herbal soaps are effective in whitening skin.

"I'm always moved to hear strangers hear them about how the soap has helped them with their dry concerns because I know the feeling," says Abdul.

The group's soap production is a month routine to about 5,700 bars, with bottles of dishwashing liquid, 1,050 bottles of fabric conditioner and 600 kilos of detergent powder which cost them nearly P300,000 additionally a profit share of P74,000.

Today, the organization has now thirteen its operations where sales have consistently increased.

The group orders the papaya extracts and coconut oils and plastic containers from their network of suppliers from as far as Manila. Lastly, they added the dishwashing liquid, fabric conditioner, laundry powder, bleaching powder and perfume to the list.

Karon then discovered the products to relatives and friends, and friends' bosses. The group now boasts of over 50 resellers in Cotabato City alone, which they sell at a rate or more than what Karon has suggested.

The soap now enjoys profitability

CONTINUED ON B5

4th Gawad Haydee Yorac Awardee

Dr. Kadil M. Sinolinding, Jr.

Founder and Project Director
Vision 20/20 Cataract Charities Project • Kabacan, Cotabato

He is a civil physician and volunteer ophthalmologist who has devoted his life to the remote and displaced depressed communities of indigenous people, Muslims and Christians in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and other far-flung areas of Mindanao suffering from the protracted peace and order situation.

From his years as a medical student leader to his subsequent practice of his medical profession specializing in ophthalmology, he chose to serve as a rural doctor, living in communities at risk of his life and choosing to forgo a more lucrative practice.

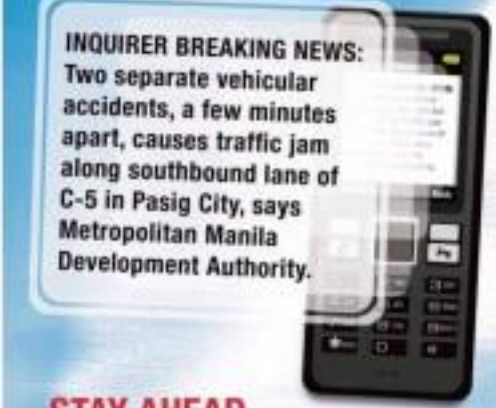
For his courage to serve, his vision for affordable cataract treatment through outreaches and other medical services to the poorest of the poor, his tireless consensus building, and bringing health, hope and peace to a troubled land, he, thus, emulated the selfless public service espoused by the late Haydee Yorac.

GAWAD HAYDEE YORAC

MERALCO

A project of Meralco Foundation, Inc. with the University of the Philippines

INQUIRER mobile news



INQUIRER BREAKING NEWS: Two separate vehicular accidents, a few minutes apart, causes traffic jam along southbound lane of C-5 in Pasig City, says Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

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■ 'Ballet Barbie': A tale of two worlds /E1

Sunday LIFESTYLE
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan
Mobile blast | Website | E-mail:

Pope in Manila next year?

ECCLESIASTICAL AND DIPLOmatic circles are abuzz with the news that Pope Benedict XVI may visit the Philippines next year to join in the celebration of the 400th anniversary of the University of Santo Tomas.

UST Rector Magnificus Fr. Rolando V. de la Rosa and the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines have invited the Pope to join in the quadricentennial celebration of Asia's oldest university. The Dominican fathers of UST said they have received a communication from Holy See's Second Congregation of the State (the Vatican foreign ministry) that the invitation had been communicated to the Pope. Church and diplomatic sources said Vatican could make an official announcement after the May elections.

If the visit pushes through, it would be the fourth for UST: Paul VI visited UST in 1970, and John Paul II did likewise in 1981 and 1995. The papal visit in 1981 was particularly memorable since John Paul beatified Lorenzo Ruiz, and canonized fourteen martyrs, many of them UST alumni (Lorenzo Ruiz himself was a member of a rosary confraternity of the Dominicans), the first beatification outside of Rome in history. When John Paul died in 2005, UST exhibited the two papal flowers that the university had especially designed and made for his visits.

UST and the Vatican go a long way. UST is the only "Pontifical University" in Asia. There are only some 20 pontifical universities in the world, and UST was the second to be declared as such in history, even ahead of prestigious schools in Europe and South America. The Rector Magnificus of UST is appointed by the Pope, in terms of current population (400,000), UST is the biggest Catholic school in the world.

King Juan Carlos and Queen Sophia of Spain have also been invited to attend the UST quadricentennial.

UST to exhibit oldest book

One indication of the growing prospects for another papal visit is that the Vatican has agreed to ship to the Philippines its copy of "Ilustrious Concilios." the first book to be printed in the Philippines. The copy will be displayed in "Lumina Pandit: Spreading the Light I," a multimillion dollar exhibition at the UST Miguel de Benavides Library that will run July 2010 to January 2011, when the papal visit is supposed to take place.

In the run-up to the 1995 visit of John Paul II, the Vatican shipped to the Philippines priceless items from the Sistine Museum for an exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila. The exhibit of sacred art and other relics emphasized the Church's work of evangelization in Asia.

Behind the wooden block pews constructed by Dominican Fr. Blanco de San José and the Chinese convert Juan de Vera in 1595, "Ilustrious" was a catechism in Tagalog, proof that the early missionaries like the Dominicans had mastered the native languages in order to spread the faith. No copy of the work is believed to have survived in the Philippines, where tropical climate is unkind to book preservation.

According to Fr. Angel Aparicio, OP, UST's professor of libraries, UST will also exhibit the incunabulum (books printed before 1501) and other rare books in its rich and very varied collection, including its copy of Copernicus' "De revolutionibus orbium coelestium (On the Revolutions of the Celestial Spheres)," which contains the astronomer's famous heliocentric theory, published in 1543.

Other activities being prepared by UST to mark its 400th anniversary are an international conference on the history of UST, the Manila meeting of the International Council of St. Thomas Aquinas Universities, the Summa Forum, a literary contest in English, Filipino and Spanish, and the concurrent with General Luna of 400 villages for the distributing across the Philippines.

'I Didn't Marry You...'

"A woman doesn't need a man as long as she has her own money."

"Every woman must learn to be an actress to feed and shelter herself."

"She should not talk like that about me. She's not pretty enough."

These are just a few of the nuggets

from Henry Sy Jr. from church, lovers and even strangers that journalist and editor Julie Sig Daza had compiled into a little blue book called "I Didn't Marry You Because I Love You."

Daza's mini tome has 140 pages of plain witty lines or practical wisdom, not chiefly on relationships. Even some famous people (Tony Meloto, Deogracias Cleopas) in powerful figures in local politics (Alexis Macapagal-Arroyo, Miss Bonnet and business (Henry Sy, John Gokongwei, Jaime Zobel, Emilio Yap, Lucio Tan). The cover title itself is from an unnamed ex-native of Daza; a few quotations, from her own mother, some others, but non.

"My secret? Equal distribution." It doesn't make sense, until you find out it's a line from Joseph Estrada.

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- Vivien Castro, Sales Leader, Daet

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- Decerese Ann Calipes, Sales Leader, Cavite

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- Marilou Langres, Sales Leader, Tacloban

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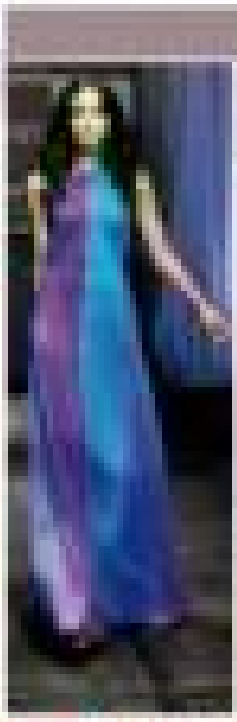
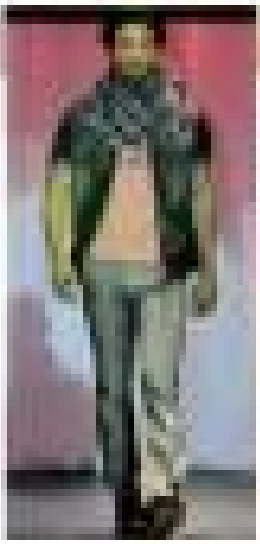
The SPRING/SUMMER at the Podiu

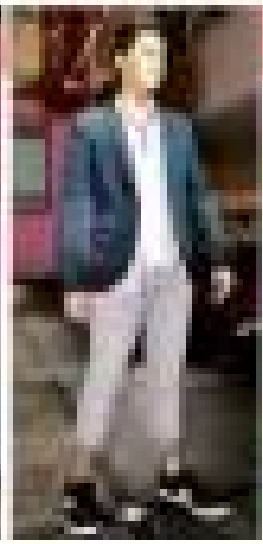
SAND was a relaxed beach scene and a day in the sun with the sultry and trendy styles

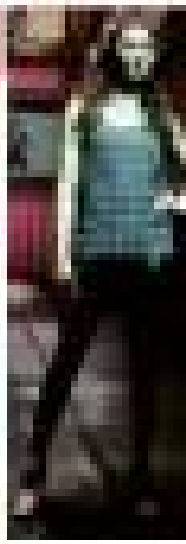


SMOKE

celebrated the sexy and chic [illegible] styles available for ladies on holidays, weekend and the [illegible]







COLLECTION

um

STONE

High chairs from Baby Company

Baby Company recommends the Buggy Playard. This easy and comfy playpen allows baby to sleep in an incline, and comes with a removable changing table, removable canopy, night light and music box

With a high chair, baby can join the family during meals, and can help your little one learn to sit properly, use utensils and develop proper table manners. More than that, it will allow baby to bond with the rest of the family as they gather together.

High chairs can be used for years, and even passed on from one child to another. And here, Baby Company, the Baby Specialist, recommends safe, adjustable, easy to clean high chairs, which come with convenient features to match your baby's needs.

These high chairs are available at the Baby Company section of all SM Department Stores, and at specialty stores at The Podium, Power Plant Mall, and The Annex at SM City North EDSA. Also visit our website at www.babycompany.com.

This Goodbaby high chair pure safety first with its 3-point safety harness and wheel locks

This Goodbaby high chair is light and compact for more convenience

Use this Disney Polly Magic high chair from baby's early months upto 3 years old. This chair also has a removable tray liner with colorful toys, teethers and crinkle textures to entertain and stimulate baby's senses

Goodbaby multi-functional high chair with six height positions, three position adjustable backrest, one-hand tray removal, washable cover and removable bowl-safe for microwave and use

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Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

In the eye of the Year of the Tiger

The Chinese Lunar Year is the biggest celebration in China. Half a million dollars is spent on the official fireworks alone to welcome the new year

Text and photos by Anna A. Jumbora

YOU'RE INSIDE A CHINESE home. Nothing in this house is by accident," said Vanessa Mok, our host for the traditional hei nian (Chinese greetings) during the Chinese Lunar New Year in Hong Kong.

Indeed, beyond the red-and-gold envelope that came with them good wishes and prosperity for the new year, the traditional Chinese celebrations is brimming with superstitions and feng shui beliefs. The first direction we took as we stepped out of our hotel on a sunny New Year's Day, for instance, was toward the east to usher in good luck.

Never mind that the shorter route was the other way around; attracting good luck for the new year was more important. Never mind, too, if you were tired. You had nothing to lose, and the longer walk would do you lower a favor. Was it really Valentine's Day, too? Because the frigid breeze from Victoria Harbour was too thick even for Cupid's winged arrow.

The Chinese New Year is the biggest event in Hong Kong, hosting $500,000 for a spectacular fireworks display of epoch blossoms. Right here and the year 2010 spelled out in the sky. It drew a crowd of more than 200,000. It's while most parts of world were awake and shaking over Hanuk's Day, Hong Kong's streets were littered with excitement and hope for the entrance of the energetic and roaring Tiger.

A day before the new year, throngs of people scramble into the Fa Hui Park Flower Market to find flowers that are traditionally displayed in homes as a symbol of prosperity. Any flower of choice will do, but to those hoping to find new beginnings or new love, pinch blossoms is a must.

VANESSA and husband Sik Chung Mok, offering the "tray of togetherness"

PRAYERS are moved inward through sticks. A hermit in shadow together; she can then talk off habit—the answer to a question.

Tray of togetherness

At the Mok residence, the reassuring odor was exciting a "tray of togetherness" that found traditional use during New Year's Day feasts. There were dried watermelon seeds to attract more money, dried lotus seeds to enhance female fertility, lotus roots to bring prosperity, with modern touches of candies for a sweet year, and nuts for health. But more goo, the New Year cake, to get a job promotion.

The sound of mahjong tiles being shuffled was making music of the other rooms. Mahjong, a popular Chinese game, is also traditionally played during New Year's Day to please can catch up with the latest news and gossip.

"We expect relatives and close family friends to gather together during New Year's Day. When they come here, we wish them well," said Mok, a grade school teacher. Her international late information at guests along with her painter-calligrapher-artist husband Sik Chung Mok.

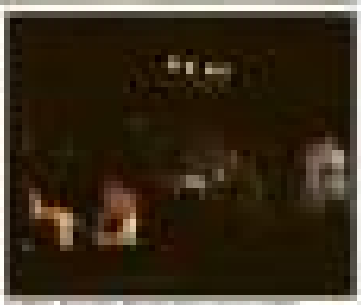
Unlike Christmas, the western celebration comparable to the popularity of Chinese Lunar New Year, nobody asks who's been naughty and who's been nice. On Chinese New Year's Day, everyone gets a warm smile to go with whatever good fortune wish. There's because thinking or saying something negative will only discourage prosperity to come into your life.

Everyone starts the year right by

Bravo! Celebrating the Filipino salutes homegrown artistic genius

THE FULL SPECTRUM OF PHILIPPINE ART RADIATES

Filipino ingenuity and artistry shine through Bravo!, a festival showcasing the most inspiring talents in the fields of music, visual arts, and fashion at the Araneta Malls.



BRAVO!

TRADITIONAL. Ian-nian (Chinese greeting) brings three generations of the Mak family together.

In the eye of the Year of the Tiger

THE ART of Chinese calligraphy

TEN, TWALIKES from Bulgaria go acrobatic on Monteiro's

FAMILY MEDLEY is traditionally played during New Year's Day, allowing family members to catch up on the latest news and gossip.

WISHES and prayers, mostly in Chinese, pasted on a wall

"Meat up" with Greenwich American Lunch Specials

Expect "Where are we having lunch?" to produce a bigger and meatier answer these days, thanks to the latest meaty dishes now offered in selected Greenwich stores. The Philippines' favorite pizza chain presents meals inspired by the big servings and even bigger taste of Western food classics with the new Greenwich American Lunch Specials.

Perfect for sharing with friends, whether during special occasions or just as a workday treat, the American Lunch Specials present two premium chokes that offer best value. Those with primal appetites can arrange a "meat up" with friends and enjoy tasting every big, tender and juicy piece.

Bite into Thick 'n Tender chops or enjoy a Quarter-lbs. ribs both glazed with special pizza BBQ sauce, served with parsley-sprinkled java rice, mixed vegetables and regular store for only P179 and P186 respectively.

You get to enjoy these complete, meaty and delicious meals at surprisingly less than P200 only! Rush to selected Greenwich stores now to treat yourself and your buddies to the new Greenwich American Lunch Specials!

From page D1

attracting and circulating only positive thoughts and energy. The traditional Lion Dance vanish off the negative elements with its rhythmic drumbeats and acrobatic dance sequence. A goal of fortune also infused to you filled with candy in money into the crowd.

The Century Studio International New Year Night Parade that kicked off at the Hong Kong Cultural Center Piazza in Tsim Sha Tsui was joined by 30 group performers from around the world. There were the Royal Belmokkers of Mercklerm from Belgium, who bowled the audience over with their silhouette Chinese Even Hong Kong Disneyland's Tigger welcomed the Year of the Tiger by wowing us a cheerful crowd of both young and old.

Losing its luster

Mak, who also studied the art of reading people's fortune, said the traditional Chinese celebration is slowly losing its luster to the younger generation, who are only prompted to mark the feast because of parents there parents or grandparents. Still, that did not stop the three—young and old—to troop to the Wong Tai Sin Temple to pray for good fortune.

The smoke of burnt joss sticks (incense), the red and gold lucky threads mixed with spinning wheels if the traces the school spins, the noise before and to and the noise of people walking, kneeling, standing, trying to utter prayers for a lucky year, could be overwhelming. The waiting wait just before the cult was calmer, where silent prayers were written into piece of sticker paper.

Do wishes get answered? Many devout Chinese venture by the grace of the god Wong Tai Sin, but the answer to every prayer is one always a yes.

"I follow them traditions and I believe in those practices," said Mak. "They have been passed on in our family for generations. We pay our respects to these traditions not only on New Year's Day, but all throughout the year."

REVERIE
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Karen Davila to give advice to special parents

We see her seven days a week, co-anchoring the ABS-CBN News Program TV Patrol World. We marvel at how cool, calm, collected she is, as she delivers the most controversial news in the country. We see her very poised, encouraging, and endearing as she hosts another Kapamilya Network show Wander More. We know that she is married to DJ Ata. Ava, and is a proud mom to David Jude and Lucas Emmanuel. An award-winning journalist, a loving wife, and a good mother-indeed, there is already much that has been said about Karen Davila.

On March 11, 2010, Ms. Davila will take on a role as she helps empower special parents in the monthly Parent's Support Group, initiated by Center for Possibilities, Inc.

"At the age of 4, my son David was diagnosed with mild autism. I can say that it was one of the most trying times of my life. I became so obsessed on how to meet his special needs. With God's help, we were able to provide him with the best kind of program," says Ms. Davila. "I would like to share my experiences to other special parents and to give them encouragement as they deal with their own problems."

Karen shares that it was a difficult journey for her at the time when she started being a special parent. She became very meticulous in choosing the right therapies that her son will go to. She also charted out a program for her son David's diet and exert went into biomedicine.

Center for Possibilities is a non-profit foundation which is working for the benefit of children with developmental disabilities and their families. Since 2006, the foundation has launched activities that were all aimed at enabling special parents as they face different parenting issues.

The Center for Possibilities Support Group Seminar will be held on March 11, 2010, 10-12 NN, at the Main Bar of the Makati Sports Club, located at Leviste St., Makati City. For further inquiries, please call us at 7235133/7231242. Please look for Tina or Jeng. To learn more about the foundation, please visit our website at http://www.possibilitiescenter.org/.

Visa and private villa promo

Visa is teaming up with leading independent villa guide Private Homes & Villas to offer up to two nights' complimentary accommodation when booking two of 32 selected luxury private villas in Bali, Koh Samui and Phuket.

The Visa and Private Homes & Villas promotion, which can represent savings of up to 33 percent, includes accommodation, gourmet seafood dinners and spa massage treatments (available throughout 2010), the offer is open to all Visa Premium cardholders (Visa Platinum, Visa Signature and Visa Infinite).

The Visa and Private Homes & Villas promotion features a selection of high-end two to six-bedroom villas. They range from romantic retreats such as five-month, secret-wedded villas in Koh Samui, the stunning clifftop villas on Phuket's luxurious Surin and Kata, to iconic Bali villas such as Pan Pacific and The Beach House.

Private villa from $400 per person per night. The offer runs throughout the year. Visit www.privatehomesandvillas.com/visa.

TRAVEL BRIEFS

Summer family treats at Cebu hotel

This summer, Shangri-La's Mactan Resort and Spa in Cebu is offering a family-oriented mix of water sports and complimentary recreational activities.

The beachside paradise on a picturesque island that adores children and welcomes guests of all ages, set to enjoy a leisurely walk on the sea floor. With the set of underwater that provides a closely-watch of escapes, guests will be able to take a variety of marine life—more than 500 species of fish, corals and other sea creatures—at the Shangri-La Mactan Sanctuary.

The resort's sports and recreation team has also introduced a new activity in addition to keep guests active and entertained during their stay. These activities include beach volleyball games, water polo and kids aerobics.

Families may also discover more about the resort while developing their team skills by joining the introduced Mactan Family Challenge. Kid guests in need of rest and relaxation will benefit from kid-centered yoga classes scheduled at 10a. The Spa and the resort's Chapel quotes.

Rates for the Local Residents Package begin at P6,000++. To book an overnight stay with buffet breakfast for two adults and two children below 12 years old, celebrated over an hour-outdoor water sports facilities, daily round-trip city shuttle transfers, access to the Health Club's facilities, broadband internet access, local calls and scheduled complimentary activities.

The package is valid until April 30 with exchange of P2,000+ during the Easter period (March 31-April 5). For reservations and information, call 231-0288 or e-mail reservations.mactan@shangri-la.com; visit Celebrations on the second floor of Greenhill in Makati City; or call 729-4600 during said hours.

NLEX outdoor travel fair set March 19-20

The Manila North Tollways Corporation (MNTC) in cooperation with the Philippine Association of Independent Travel Agencies-Mabalacat Chapters in Bataan, Pampanga, Bataan-Olongapo-Subic-Zambales (BOSZ), La Union-Ilocos Sur-Pangasinan-Ilocos Norte (LIPI), and Palawan (Inst) will present "Take me to Norte" the first NLEX Outdoor Travel Fair on March 19 and 20 at the covered area of NLEX Shell Balagtas.

The two-day event will showcase the best products, services and travel destinations in the different provinces in the North and is expected to draw thousands of tourists.

"Promoting tourism in north and central Luzon has always been one of MNTC's advocacies. For the last five years, it continues to aggressively push the various tourism activities in the different provinces in Bernardo, by organizing this outdoor travel fair, MNTC doesn't only attempt to attract more tourists but also creates added value for the regular customers of NLEX," said an NLEX official.

According to Bambo Balikuan Chapter president Angie Buenaventura, visiting officials of the MNTC and Department of Tourism led by Undersecretary Oscar Poblete, local government officials, Pastor northern chapter presidents and members have been invited to grace this occasion.

Visitors and tourists can avail of the bargain prices from hotel and resort accommodations, food and beverage discounts, low-priced admission, affordable bus packages, friendly coffee, cultural dance performances, interactive tourism activities, product presentations, among others.

Shopping packages in the fair may found like include the Jollibee Mega Mascot in Bagyan, Thunderbird Resort, La Quinta and the newly opened Tarlac Hotel and Convention Center, among others.

The first NLEX Outdoor Travel Fair will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the NLEX Shell Balagtas (Km. 32). For more information, call (02) 478-9031.

IN THIS ISSUE

■ InterCon 'alumni' reunite after 40 years–with interesting memories /B1

Sunday LIFESTYLE

NATIONAL Artist Pitoy Moreno dresses up the face of Filipino style and materials in this fully embroidered piece.

'Ballet Barbie': A tale of 2 worlds

By Anacle Villa Bergson
Contributor

EVER SINCE I BECAME A TRUSTEE of Ballet Philippines in 2000, I have been immersed in the world of dance, and my admiration for dancers has since turned into respect and awe. Now, able to see the behind-the-scenes preparations, I bow to the stamina of dancers and scholars of Ballet Philippines.

Busy dancer. At times a day, a grueling daily routine that starts at 5 a.m. and ends late in the night. Lovers turn and women would buckle at the knees, yet these dancers and scholars survive their aches and pains, then come back for more. This instills in their passion, their dedication to perfect a craft and to dance.

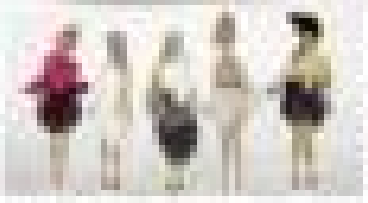
And so when we found out that some scholars were strug-

SEE PAGE B2

Top designers dress up the famous doll to raise funds for Ballet Philippines dance scholars

'Ballet Barbie': A tale of 2 world

ls



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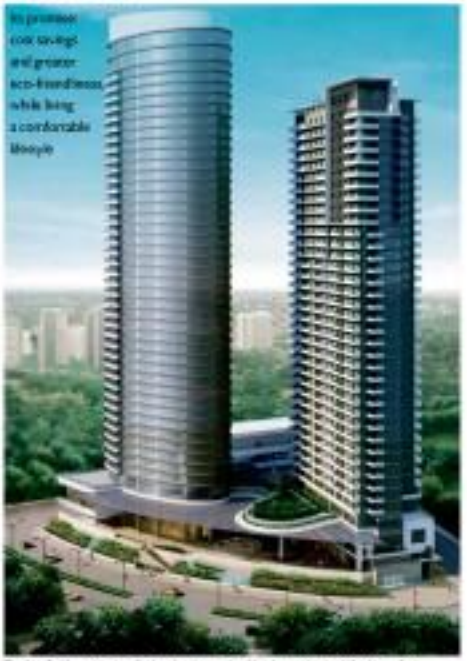
First 'green' residential condo to rise in Bonifacio Global City



The Arya Residences towers offer low-density growth, with only a maximum of 10 units per floor.

By Margie C. Enriquez
Photos by Nelson Matawaran

THE country's first "green" residential condominiums have will rise in Bonifacio Global City. The structures are designed to meet the maximum standards for sustainable design.

Arya Residences is creating a better-than-good standard in green buildings with its combination of various technologies like energy-renewable materials and reducing energy, water and waste consumption, and much features as active recycling system within the building and landscaped roofs that improve insulation and cut temperature inside.

The developer, AvidaLand, is building green not only because it's the way to go in the 21st century, but also because it expects to achieve a competitive advantage among buyers who choose environment-friendly over features—and not by a small margin for the quality of living it offers.

Arya Residences derives its name from the Sanskrit word for "noble."

"We would like to think that it's a noble cause behind this project," explains Angelo de Villa-Larrazabal, chief executive and CEO.

To receive the LEED—Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design—rating, Arya will undergo evaluation by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), which developed the standard. LEED assesses the entire building's integrative green practices, and awards points for such features. Energy saving is a major factor in green architecture, and Arya is expected to use 14 percent less energy and 40 percent less water consumption than conventional condo towers.

Lacson says that, to avoid the pall ceiling, Arya's conformity to the USGBC guidelines involves a collaborative with Davis Langdon & Seah, represented by Henry Paston, a LEED-accredited professional and director of the firm.

"We just don't claim that we have a green building," says Lacson. "We (finalize) has to attend even the technical meetings." Until handover to the consumer, acknowledged third-party has to ensure that the utilities are energy-efficient. "There's not the room in a typical condominium."

Sustainable living

The two towers (the first of which will be completed in 2014) will be the first to utilize dual piping system within the buildings. It is connected to USGBC's treatment facility that filters wastewater and supplies 20 cubic recycled greywater. It is then recycled for flushing and irrigation.

"Sustainability is not just limited to energy-related uses to applications and maintenance—the whole life of the building. You can invest in the latest technology, but it might easily get outdated. That's not sustainable. There is the triple bottom line: economic, environmental and social," says Paston.

He points out that the site itself lessens the carbon footprint. Standing on a 5,000-square-meter lot between McKinley Parkway, 32nd Street and Eighth Avenue, the Arya Residences complex is very close to shopping, parks, schools, offices and malls.

"The site selection maximizes community connectivity within the area. These places are accessible to the residents or you don't consume much fuel."

Catherine Rogers, AvidaLand's VP for project business development, says, "We offer not like comfortable living while you conserve energy."

The architecture, a partnership with ARTA Philippines and Australian consultant Cross Pollen Architecture Studios, features layers of wide balcony that overhangs that obscure direct sunlight, and minimizes heat. A huge canopy divides the public space and doubles as a deck for residents' amenities.

"The terrace will feature greenery to provide cooling. The building's exterior is oriented in such a way that most of the units, especially the largest bedroom spaces, don't face the sun directly. Additional shading is provided where the form towers cast shadows towards each other, while maximizing beautiful views of BGC.

Energy savings

Passive skills that during construction, residents are required to adapt at domestic thresholds. The materials will be sourced locally or ecologically renewable materials such as bamboo, marble and engineered wood will be used for flooring.

To improve the air quality, the building will use products that eliminate or minimize volatile organic compounds (VOCs) such as formaldehyde, which can emit unwanted gases. In the public areas, paints used will be low in VOCs. Carpets and furniture cabinetry will also meet low VOC adhesive requirements.

Sanitary fixtures include dual flush toilets that control the water according to the weight of the waste. Large windows, a rarity in many condos, facilitate natural sunlight and air flow.

All units will have an energy-regulatory unit. Arya's owners units have an energy efficiency of 1 (1 EER, cooling at least 12 cups, with one horsepower, beating the best in the market. The common will be

Balcony like roof helps prevent direct sunlight, thereby reducing energy used for cooling.

The elevated Plaza offers destination-dining spaces. The towers are oriented to catch direct breezes.

Open plan of one-bedroom unit features wood floor, floor-to-ceiling windows and high ceilings. Model unit designed by Tina Periquet.

With the right finishes, minimal furniture and accessories, architect Ed Calma shows how a family of three or four can live well in a one-bedroom condo unit.

TEAM ARTA. Angelo de Villa-Larrazabal, Henry Rendon, Catherine Rogers

The unit comes with cabinets, rangehood and gas cooktop. The kitchen is recently local commercial which is one the carbon footprint. Pre-laps shows the proper materials cabinetry and common space to the end user.

Bathrooms will feature a double-piping system, which will allow the use of greywater for flushing. Designer Manny Samson uses exquisite finishes for the bathrooms of model one-bedroom executive unit.

Generous master bedroom space, some 20 sqm, in the one-bedroom executive unit and an adjacent walk-in closet and dressing. Model unit by Manny Samson.

IN THIS ISSUE
Ever green wedding /G5

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Samsung rolls out the first 3D TV for consumers

After 'Avatar,' you knew life-watching wouldn't be the same again

By Thelma Sioson San Juan

WHY DOES ONE GET THE feeling that after "Avatar," life, as you watch it, would never be the same again?

That is because this blockbuster, which you enjoyed on-screen, it's not more than two hours, sucked you into the world of 3D where you not only watched the screen images but also felt them as they leaped into your personal space. It is one sizable reason the technology is the story—where the storytelling arena beyond words into a level of sensory experience.

"Avatar" signaled the race of the electronics giants to bring this sensory 3D experience into your home.

But while the other electronic brands proclaimed the development of such technology, Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd. went a step further last week, in Singapore, as it announced it will be the first to make the PaSONIC (high-definition) 3D LED TVs available to consumers in Southeast Asia and Oceania regions.

It will roll out its first models—with new content and applications—in April in the regions, including the Philippines.

Innovative products

Samsung flew to Singapore the media and hundreds of business partners (dealers) last Monday, for the Samsung Southeast Asia and Oceania Forum to feature

SAMSUNG F1

The run of my life

No racing chip can measure the delay from ogling all those cute Brazilian models at the water stations

Tessa!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

RUNNING IS NOT JUST A PASSING trend. This sports craze is growing as fast and it's definitely here to stay. How do I know? Well, all I need to do is look at all the specialty running stores and magazines around. Plus it seems that every weekend there is another race with thousands of people joining.

More and more health-conscious people are getting into running daily. I think the main attraction is that it offers something for all levels of ability. Race distances can be as short as 2K for the newbies or as long as 100K for the crazies.

Among the many races I join, a favorite is the Condura Run, organized by running brothers Ron and Patrick Gonzalez. The two have created one of the premiere running events in the country and are continuously improving the race every year that it is held.

THELIFE/G1

How Ingrid Sala Santamaria became a Chopin pianist

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Piernavieja

INGRID SALA SANTAMARIA came to Cebu for a quiet and rather whirlwind visit that coincided with her birthday. She met some friends and gave them an update on her latest doings.

She is more than playing the piano. Ingrid became computer literate relatively recently and has mastered its use. She is enthusiastic about YouTube, where she has uploaded more than 140 segments of her piano performances here and abroad.

"I'll show you four of them. It's minutes each, for that's the limit," she said as she opened a superdimensional laptop. What she has done is a four-part documentary to honor the 200th birthday of Frederick Chopin.

Chopin had two birthdays. His family always said he was born on March 1, but almost 100 years later, church records showed it had been on Feb. 22. Ingrid's birthday coincides with 22, as she says: "I'm happy to be in between."

Ingrid's YouTube series is about how Chopin's music came to the Philippines, and what to her, by way of a circuitous process, radically also underpins. She is, as Cecilio on the right says to us, happier his music. It has to do with music, achieved with a good ear and deft fingers.

Musical legacy

Chopin was of French descent, but he championed the liberty of his native Poland. Pencil Link was just in infancy about Hungary. Chopin and Liszt were friends, with the latter absorbing Chopin's musicality. Liszt passed Chopin's legacy to his pupils.

One of those was Professor Ludwig Deppe, an eminent German pianist and pedagogue. Deppe had a most gifted student in a Pomeranian nun, Sister Benjamin Boring, who came to the Philippines in 1907. She set up the Music Conservatory in St. Scholastica's College in Manila.

From there to Zamboanga City came Pilar Bilazo, who for eight years studied under Sister Benjamin. She absorbed the Chopin "musicality" and what she was told never to forget—"Cesa."

Shortly after graduation, Pilar settled in Cebu after marrying Salvador Sala. She nurtured the love of piano music on her eldest daughter Ingrid, more so when Pilar opened a piano school after she was in 1946. The school was named after Sister Baptista Boring.

Ingrid recalled how her mother organized a big concert to mark the 100th death anniversary of Chopin, and she was one of the young pianists featured. Ingrid graduated Bachelor in Music from the Boring school in 1957.

"I then received Chopin's legacy in a private and shared DNA with my mother-in," Ingrid says. She married Jose Santamaria in 1959, and he was most supportive of her career and music. Ingrid has been recognized to one of the Philippines' most acclaimed pianists.

Fine bread

Piano and jazz aficionados have now spotted Ingrid. She remains the most patient but charismatic and school friends remember like how much this bread of children, as a doting grandmother, and looks back on her life as a dedication to the diffusion of music.

She has travelled the length and breadth of the country, giving concerts, recitals and lectures, which sometimes accompany her performances. For 16 years she hosted herself in the city of her birth, Cebu, and organized with pianists a Music Festival opened in Pilgrimage.

She was the main pianist of the Salvador and Pilar Sala Foundation, established to honor her parents. The result was the Cebu Youth Symphony Orchestra, which gave Cebu its golden era of music with cocktails, concerts and carried musical events.

INGRID Sala Santamaria baked a cake to honor the 200th birthday of Frederick Chopin. The story is here and in her four-segment documentary uploaded on YouTube.

Homecoming concert

Those former students have been in touch with one another, and in recent months, the communications have been more intense. They have decided to thank themselves as an orchestra, and perform in a homecoming concert that will serve as a tribute to Ingrid.

The event has been scheduled for the evening of April 10, at Theater One of SM City Cebu. It is spearheaded by Hazel Magdalene Sanchez, an ace percussionist with the drums. The musicians will gather in Cebu a week or so before the performance date to rehearse.

Ingrid has granted their request for her to play with them, and has chosen Chopin's Concerto No. 1.

She is currently spending time in Tacloban, Batangas, at the ancestral home of the Lizares family. That is because to her daughter Cejay and husband Amorie Lizares, who is running for the congressional seat in the third district of Batangas.

Ingrid helps in the campaign, and says: "Yes, I play the piano, in that's nothing better than doing what you love best." The pianist has her own rebuttal in the caucus seat.

Dr. Emmanuel Y. Angeles' Clark

"MY AMBITION in life was to become a successful lawyer, but this attitude changed when I accepted the challenge to build Angeles University and dedicate my life to the service of the community. Since then, my ambition has become my mission, my advocacy. I believe the highest reward for one's self is not what he gets for it, but what he becomes for it," Dr. Angeles said as chairman of the Commission on Higher Education (Ched), where he has been Ched since 2008.

DR. EMMANUEL Y. ANGELES AND HIS HOME city, Angeles, significantly share the same name, and it is perhaps his destiny that he has contributed much to his home province of Pampanga through his extensive work in the academe and government service.

Although he is a lawyer by profession, Dr. Angeles has made education his vocation, chairing young Kapampangan minds as current president, and later chancellor, of the Angeles University Foundation (AUF) and cofounding president of the Angeles University Foundation Medical Center (AUFMC). He has been Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education (Ched) since Sept. 1, 2008, bringing with him 30 years of experience in the field.

From March 12, 2001 to March 11, 2008, Dr. Angeles served as president and Chief Executive Officer of Clark Development Corporation. With him at the helm of CDC, he steered Clark into becoming a world-class aviation and economic hub in South East Asia. His outstanding accomplishments as well as his love for his hometown make him a perfect point to be Clark's No. 1 fan.

"I HAVE always believed that SM could generate employment, infuse investment and provide Kapampangan with a new shopping, leisure and dining experience. That's why I have enough support for the establishment of SM City Clark," SM City Clark has become a favorite destination for Kapampangans since it opened in 2006. It has also become the commonly used in the province, frequently partnering with AUF and AUFMC in cultural presentations, community outreach, and environmental preservation programs.

"AJA TINGKYONG, lady pogoda, mo-donna Sunday exclusively for the family. After Mass, we go out for lunch or dinner. We like eating food, especially seafood. Personal favorites include dating sa Hongis, crispy lato and mustasang sinigaling," Dr. Angeles says of his favorite eateries at Carey's Grill at SM City Clark with wife Dr. Cornelia Leilani Angeles, second son and incumbent AUF president Atty. Joseph Emmanuel Angeles, daughter-in-law Atty. Marianne Elizabeth B. Angeles, and grandsons Matthew Dominic and Theodore James.

"ONE IMPORTANT activity we have emphasized to our children is to play as fitness and sports. We wanted them that a rounded kind of growing as a person/body. We encourage them to join competitions where their (in-) like competitiveness, brotherhood, camaraderie, and camaraderie. I myself like golfing, and am happy that we have world-class golf courses in

"I LIKE visiting SM City Clark every time there is an art exhibit, cultural show, or performance I would like to watch, especially if it is one initiated by the Angeles University Foundation. I also like shopping at ACE Hardware especially when I am in search of items needed by our home," Dr. Angeles adores their all-from-his-long-situation-to-shop at ACE Hardware at SM City Clark.

"THE ALFMEDICAL Center is a dream that almost remained a dream. Despite many opposition, I persevered in building it because our people needed a health facility with modern equipment and professional expertise. Now celebrating 20 successful years of providing quality healthcare, it now serves as the base hospital of medical, dental and allied medical students of AUF. We have made arrangements with other hospitals in Metro Manila and Pampanga to allow our students to undergo their clinical rotations in their facilities. Medical nursing and allied medical students don't have to go to Manila schools as well as save hassle on housing expenses which the AUFMC provides," At the AUF Medical Center with AUFMC medical director Dr. Ma. Lourdes G. Lapeña.

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WITH MORE THAN
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employees,
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CENTURY Canning's Maria Macapagal, Gala Gamboa, Ariel Conde, Lei Pi and Cookie's Corned Tuna endorser Sherab Nonoy

REPRESENTATIVES of Cookie's Run sponsor Herbalife with Mar Martinez (extreme right)

TOP men and women finishers Rakesh Javier, Elizabeth Crandstedt, Neil Cobb, Hiroaki Akui, Mia Benedicto and August Benedicto

BAT and Fernando Zobel de Ayala

The run of my life

From page F1

As the driving force behind the Cookies Run, Tet and Patrick have created an event that particularly sparkles because it also raises funds for the promotion of our reefs and marine life. Past Cookies have supported Tubbataha marine park and the whale sharks of Donsol.

This year's race was rolled the Cookies Run for the fireflies. Of the runners' registration fees, P50 was contributed to a fund managed by Cookies to protect the dolphins of Bohol.

Now on its third year and with a record 8,000 runners participating, the Cookies Run added on a 42K full marathon distance to the 5K-way run. I was quite tempted to sign up for that but with not enough training time with my coach, Ani de Leon, I stuck to the 5K because attainable distance of 21K.

My 14 Marathon Interval cousin Lydia Carpio placed 4th in the Top 42K Female winners, even though I must have slowed her down for a couple of minutes. We met at the Skyway toll entrance as she was coming back from Alabang.

It's a good thing Meggie Rina Lopez de Jesus was there with Tim to take photos. Check out her detailed and colorful account, http://www.lopezdejesus.com/2010/03/06/cookies-run-2010-run-for-the-dolphins-by-rina-concepcion/, for her great coverage of the Cookies Run.

ISABEL Duea and Gloria Diaz

LANCE Gokongwei and Mariner Rapsi

CENTURY Tuna Superboob 2009 Van Victor-Louie and Theresa Fenger

MRs. PIA Cayetano and Luisa Cerpo

Lote

As in all my races, getting to the starting line is the most challenging part of the race. As one might imagine, it is difficult to go to all the Saturday night social events in the city and still wake up in time for a race on Sunday morning.

The only saving factor is that majority of the races are in the Bonifacio Global City in Taguig, so it is not too far from home. I am just glad to be able to enjoy the camaraderie and post-race other runners at the end of the race.

My official finishing times are all screwed up, because I sometimes run a race 15 minutes after everyone has gone call. I wish I had the discipline of runners like Jaymee Pinero, who watches even her split times to ensure a strong finish. Check out her site, www.behealthy-ateveryone, for her feature on the Cookies Run.

Century Tuna run

True to form, I was 21 minutes late for the Century Tuna Superfoods Run 2010. A virtual scene of runners was still at the starting line, as the 5K runners were about to be flagged off. My running pacer Janet Lopena and I were stuck in the back of the line.

However, in this case my total time was still properly recorded. Century Tuna Race organizer, coach Rio de la Cruz of Runrio, had racing chips for all the runners, which measured the time from when we crossed the start line until when we crossed the finish. Now that's the way to run a race!

My racing chip though was to receive the delay from opting at the Century Tuna Superfoods who were handling the water stations. Instead of quick water to hydrate, I chanced with the cute Brazilian models who were so refreshing to look at so early in the morning.

The star studded celebration of health and fitness brought together over 5,000 runners, actors were endorser Derek Ramsay rallying for Century Tuna, the market leader in canned tuna. The race drew over 12,000 health and fitness enthusiasts.

Century Canning's Md Gold Tecnico and Century marketer Angelie Gamboa told me they were so happy with the excellent turnout. In addition to all the festivities, the event also raised funds for Unicef and WWF, the wildlife guys, not the wrestling ones. For complete race results, check www.runrio.com.

Powerade bike run

For those who want a little more variety from just running, try a triathlon, a run-bike-run race. Powerade, the sports drink that optimally hydrates and energizes, supported the Triathlon Association of the Philippines for the culminating leg of the Powerade Philippine Triathlon Open.

Neil Cahill brought home the overall men's championship and Mirasol Abad prevailed on the female side. Of course, as this is a sound column, I'll leave more on the celebs who were there including dancer diva Regine Tolentino, UAAP swimmer Eunhong Lee, Blue Eagle point guard Ad Bueno, singer Jay-R and model-actor Jon Avila.

THREE generations of the Concepcion clan in full support of the Cookies Run

CONDURA Race for the Dolphins organizers Tim Concepcion and Patrick Concepcion

CONDURA co-founder Isabelle with parents Mina and Antonio Huang

DIVINE friends Renan Cruz, Marissa Portacio with JR Quinlan Wee, Tet Lee and Digi Santos

BLUE Eagles' Jai Reyes and dancer diva Regine Tolentino

GEORGINA Wilson

Rakh singer Jay-R

TWITHER Idol and athlete Eunhong Lee

ACTOR Jon Avila

Subic Bay triathlon event

And if doubles isn't enough, don't get me started on the triathlon—a workout. The upcoming Subic Bay International Triathlon (SBIT) 2010 will be the 17th edition of the longest-running and premier triathlon in our country.

The well-maintained and pristine facilities of Subic Bay Freeport have twice hosted the ITU Asian Triathlon Championships, in 1997 and 2004. This year, it will host the 2010 Asian Aseier & 10th Triathlon Championships, which will include teams from many Asian Triathlon Confederation member countries. SBIT is sanctioned by the International Triathlon Union and the SOTC.

SBIT has built a reputation as one of the best-organized triathlons in the Asia Cup series and continues to bring new challenges to its participants.

This year's course will start with a swim off the clear, calm waters off Isaganan beach, followed by a climbing bike course, which will go up the rough hills of the Kenad Magazine area, and finally a run that will meander along the wetland Central Business District, Planet Fitness area.

For those interested to join, go to the Triathlon Association website, www.triathlon.org.ph.

Gosh, it's the peak of summer already, and it's great to be in running shape!

E-mail: augustus@inquirer.com.ph

TOP Dutch African finishers at the Asics tent

THE DMCI marathon race on the Skyway—Condura Run for the Dolphins

CONDURA Run for the Dolphins marching band with Star Princess

Politics of forgiveness

From page F6

1. Know exactly how you feel about what happened and be able to articulate what the situation is not okay. Afterward, seek the counsel of someone whose opinion you respect and trust.

2. Make a commitment to yourself to do what you must do to feel better. Forgiveness is for you and not for anyone else.

3. Forgiveness does not necessarily mean reconciliation with the person who hurt you, or condoning their action. What you are after is to find peace. Forgiveness can be defined as the "peace and understanding that come from releasing that which has hurt you last, taking the life experience lost, personally and changing your grievance story."

4. Get the right perspective on what is happening. Recognize that your personality flaws are coming from the hurt feelings, thoughts and physical upset you are suffering now, not what offended or hurt you two minutes—or 10 years—ago. Forgiveness helps us heal those hurt feelings.

5. Journal your grievance story to remind you of the heroic choice to forgive.

6. Use the right perspective on what is happening. Recognize that your personality flaws are coming from the hurt feelings, thoughts and physical upset you are suffering now, not what offended or hurt you two minutes—or 10 years...ago. Forgiveness helps us heal those hurt feelings.

7. Journal your grievance story to remind you of the heroic choice to forgive.

I know those forgiven myself and the persons who has caused me pain when I am able to drink positively of him or her, and to the quiet of my heart, which that person only the best as we continue peacefully and move on, minus each other, with the rest of our lives.

No brokenness is beyond God's repair but otherwise or not that relationship will be restored is something you need to surrender and find peace with. Don't spiral deeper in pride thinking what you want. If it is meant to be healed, and you have taken the necessary steps to do so, you let go and let God heal it or life remarkable, not yours.

E-mail the author at carlyb@sbcglobal.net

Samsung rolls out the first 3D TV for consumers

From page F1

Singapore Convention Center.

The huge hall at the Center showcased Samsung's breakthrough lineup of Full HD 3D solutions, starting with its TV and innovative products in digital imaging and home appliances. They included the NX10 digital camera, French Door refrigerators, an "intelligent" home cleaner called the Navibot with a Photonic Mapping System that identifies the exact location of obstacles in your home such as furniture, among other innovative lifestyle tools. The exhibition center was an "Alice in Wonderland," event (P9 fc).

At Suntec hall, the introduction to worlds of the 3D LED TV experience was quite interesting. 3D glasses—developed by Samsung—were distributed to hundreds of journalists and marketing officials. Each pair of glasses had a "battery" you pressed to turn it on. Then scenes from "Monsters vs Aliens" and some sports tech **even was on the multi-display** wall. It was simply awesome—**and engrossing.**

At that moment you could approximate how your great grandmother's generation must **have felt as they saw their first** "talkies." And you can only **shudder at the thought of how** your grandchildren and your grandchildren, ages from now, will look back—and gibe in amusement,—at how their grandmother (that's you) relished her 3D movie.

Today's earth-shaking innovation will be tomorrow's everyday lifestyle.

This campaign of technology impacts no one in the way it **bounds us to our particular time** and space.

SAMSUNG SOUTHEAST Asia and Oceania Forum guests wear 3D glasses to watch the unveiling of Full HD 3D LED TV at Suntec Convention Center in Singapore.

SAMSUNG Digital Imaging Co. Ltd. Chief Executive Officer Sang-In Park gives opening remarks at Forum.

QUEST matches 3D multi-display.

LED TV

PLASMA TV

ADDING another dimension to home entertainment.

Liberating content

With impressive articulateness, the Samsung officials presented their products, with the opening speech by Sang-In Park, Chief Executive Officer, Samsung Digital Imaging Co. Ltd.

The TV says the 3D home entertainment century introduced by Samsung, which included its first 3D LED TVs, 3D LCD and 3D Plasma TVs, and the Blu-ray Player. It describes this breakthrough as "the ability to liberate television content into **creative dimensions."**

"The success of recent 3D **movie titles is fuelling anticipation** from people who want to enjoy the excitement of 3D content from the comfort of their living room," said Brendiene Tann, president of Samsung Electronics' Visual Display Business. "We are confident that by bringing fun **to market with the best inte**grated technology and applications, we have the first opportunity to capitalize on the mar**ket anticipation** and to continue to strengthen our leadership in 2010."

The 3D TV comes with 3D games developed by Samsung, as well as content. Samsung has an exclusive partnership with Imaxmovies. The joint blockbuster "Monsters vs Aliens" in 3D will be exclusively bundled with Samsung Full HD 3D televisions.

The LED 7000 and 850 (24000 will be sold this month, while other Samsung 3D products such as the LED 9000, LED 8000, LCD 750, PDP 7000, HT-BD8200W will be launched by the second quarter. These products, introduced at the Consumer Electronics Show last January, have received the Best of CES and CES Innovation Honoree Awards from the industry.

All the 3D models will have a built-in Internet connection, wireless media capabilities and internet TV.

In 2009, Samsung had record revenues of more than $117 billion and a full-year operating profit of almost $9.4 billion.

Comprehensive range

Also in 2009, Samsung invented the LED TV category, with more than 2.6 million units worldwide. This year, the 3D TV and AV product lineup it will roll out will be comprehensive—a range of Full HD 3D TVs (LED, LCD and plasma), 3D Blu-ray, 3D home theater systems, 3D glasses, 3D camera.

Samsung Electronics Philippines' Consumer Electronics business advisor Jay Ilo said they're looking at a high-end, and class, brand, market in the Philippines. The focus isn't so much sales, as creating consumer awareness of the product...and Samsung's pioneering edge.

How much will a 3D TV cost? Certainly less than a P100k tag.

Inside Seon Ha, Samsung Electronics Philippines Corporation represented in the Forum by president SC Park, marketing director Glenn Gloriga, Consumer Electronics sales director Singgay Mamolen, IT business advisor Sungwon Kim, Digital Air Solutions business advisor SJ Kim, Chief marketing country head Pet Rojas.

Oscar-watching, Lolita Carbon concert at Taumbayan

BARELY A YEAR SINCE IT STARTED operations, Taumbayan (3B T. Gonzaga cor. R1, Kamuning, QC; tel. 9937-3867/67) is now among the favorite events places for artists and the bohemyan crowd.

On March 6, Taumbayan hosts "Oscarwatch Taumbayan," an event that gathers friends and kindred souls in one big party to watch the Academy Awards. For P500, breakfast buffet will be offered, plus a free bag (the way they do it in the awards night), a mock vote and entrance to win a prize for the one with the most number of correctly-guessed winners. Tickets will open at 8 a.m. for the red carpet. Yes, there will be pictures, too!

Lolita Carbon raises cameraderage to celebrate Women's Month on March 8. Entitled "Lolita Cartoon's Footprint," the gig will feature songs written and popularized by the rock goddess before, during and after her stint as front vocalist. Show starts by p.m. Tickets at P500.

On Friday, March 12, the poetry group Kilometer 64 celebrates its 7th anniversary with poetry and songs. Kilometer 64, one of today's most active young Filipino writers' groups, focuses on socio-political issues. The celebration is open to the public and starts at 7 p.m.

Mall search

Sta. Lucia Mall invites cute, cheerful, talented, witty and smart little boys and girls age four to seven (by May 1) to join Search for Little Dani (3F-R).

Interested parents or guardians must fill out an application form available at the Ad & Promo Dept. listed. Submit a recent 3D close-up and full-body photo together with a photocopy of the birth certificate or any valid ID with birthdate. Original copy of these documents must be presented during the submission of requirements for verification. Only those who qualify and who have completed the requirements will be screened on March 21, Sunday, 1 p.m., at the mall's Entertainment Center Phase 5. Deadline of submission of forms and requirements is March 20.

Over P100,000 worth of cash, gift certificates and other prizes await winners.

For details, call the Ad & Promo Department at 687-8301 local 113.

Travel expo

This year's Third International Tourism and World Heritage Travel Expo has adopted the theme "Conservation, Development, Promotion and Commercialism," and will be held Sept. 16-19 at The Venetian Macao, the first fully integrated world-class resort in Asia.

The event would be an excellent opportunity for the Philippines to showcase its World Heritage sites, including the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park in Palawan and baroque churches such as Church of San Agustin in Paoay, Ilocos Norte, and Church of Santo Tomas de Villanueva in Miag-ao, Iloilo.

Expo highlights include the Most Wanted World Heritage Site Awards 2010, World Heritage School Day 2010, the 6th World Heritage Forum showcasing best practices in conservation, with 8 the Philippines represented there and participating in the Tourism Destinations, for which participating countries planning trade talks should apply at least 3 months before the expo date, to enable the committee to organize investors and developers to attend the event.

Macau is fast becoming the best alternative MICE destination in Asia with its long list of World Heritage sites, delectable cuisine that caters to everyone, bargain shopping, world-class entertainment and, now, a wide selection of state-of-the-art MICE facilities.

The World Heritage Travel Expo will be held concurrently with the Third International Leisure Travel, Tourism Commodities and Gift Trade Fair, and the Pacific Asia Travel Association (Pata) Travel Mart, offering suppliers global trading opportunities.

Visit http://www.worldheritagetravelexpo.com for more information on the Third International Tourism and World Heritage Travel Expo in Macau, and www.macauinvestor.gov.mo for information on forthcoming MICE events scheduled in Macau for the next two months.

ROOTS AND WINGS

Cathy Babao-Gotladera

Politics of forgiveness

IT HAPPENS TO THE BEST OF FRIENDS.

Election season revealed one of a lifelong pal's friend with a close friend. We were aware that slowly in many ways. In December 2006, all of that came apart at the seams.

The issue, when I look back, seems terribly petty. It was a matter of politics, preconceptions and principles. Nothing involving life and death.

Bruised words were exchanged. The cardinal rule for fighting fair was broken—rather than sticking to the issues on hand, it became dirty and very ugly. When you are overstressed, and okay, hormonal, temper flare and you do not think straight. Irretrievable damage is done. Bridges are burned.

As election season heats up, I see a lot of that taking place. Friends, office colleagues, and family members become more emotional about their own candidates to the point of nasty-making. A good friend had an encounter with a church mate over an innocuous text message about a candidate she knew personally and openly supported. Their solitude phones almost sizzled in the heat of the exchange.

Respect

I like what a friend said, that we must get to that point where we simply respect one another's choices without having to insulting to boldly. You do not need to disparage or chide to-accusations to get the upper hand. Just to the issues. Issue your candidates and what they stand for. Listen but do not be swayed in the heat of the moment. At the end of the day, it's between you, your conscience and the ballot.

People always have reasons for the choices they make. Even if someone's choice is opposed to yours in everything you stand for, respect it.

Pushing about it is energy better expended elsewhere. Don't let your relationships suffer.

In the case of my ex-friend, through the years, I've come to realize that it's not because one person was bad or the other good. Along the way we became different people and that's just the way it's meant to be. So I've learned to say good-bye and let it be.

In the heat of an argument, take a moment before opening your mouth and spare yourself, as one Chinese proverb says—"a hundred sorrows." Give it time to settle. If you must run and vent, which I guarantee you will regret, do so privately and organize. Alternately, send it once if you want to, then either burn it or shred it. You'll feel better having released all that pent-up negative energy and not have hurt anyone in the process.

Forgiveness, as Dr. Frederick Luskin, who pioneered the Stanford Forgiveness Project at Stanford University says, has an overall positive impact not only on relationships but health for the quality of one's life. "Forgiveness cannot passively or asking less personal offense, reducing anger and the blaming of the offender, and developing increased understanding of situations that often lead to feeling hurt and angry."

Steps

On the website learningtoforgive.com, Luskin cites Nine Steps to Forgiveness. Here are five of them:

Heartbroken after 2 failed loves

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

DEAR EMILY,

I am 28 years old and had a boyfriend of eight years. Unbeknownst to me, my boyfriend of the time had another girlfriend, whom he even got pregnant. In those eight years, he had introduced me to his family so I thought I was the official girlfriend and the pregnant girl was an aside. However, I never felt he was using because he was available most of the time. I fooled myself into believing he would leave her eventually and choose me in the end. They are still together today.

I was able to move on only when I needed almost 3 months there who looked like my first boyfriend, and, unfortunately, he was already taken as well. But that didn't stop us. He gave me the attention I wanted, and more. We came back home and he broke up with his girlfriend. Everything was sweet until he left me after three months of living together. He wanted to "find himself," he said. I am heartbroken, and my spirit is crushed. What's wrong with me? I come from a good family and my friends say those two guys don't deserve me. I feel I've wasted my best years with them and now I am afraid of being alone. I am now practically begging for another chance with the second guy.

LONELY HEART

You're only 28—take them all and ride with the tide

Please don't beg—not if you want others to make a decision of your self-respect. That is a no-no.

So you've been dumped by two men. Big deal! It's terrible everyone has left and gone to the moon. They may not even be worth the salt it would take!

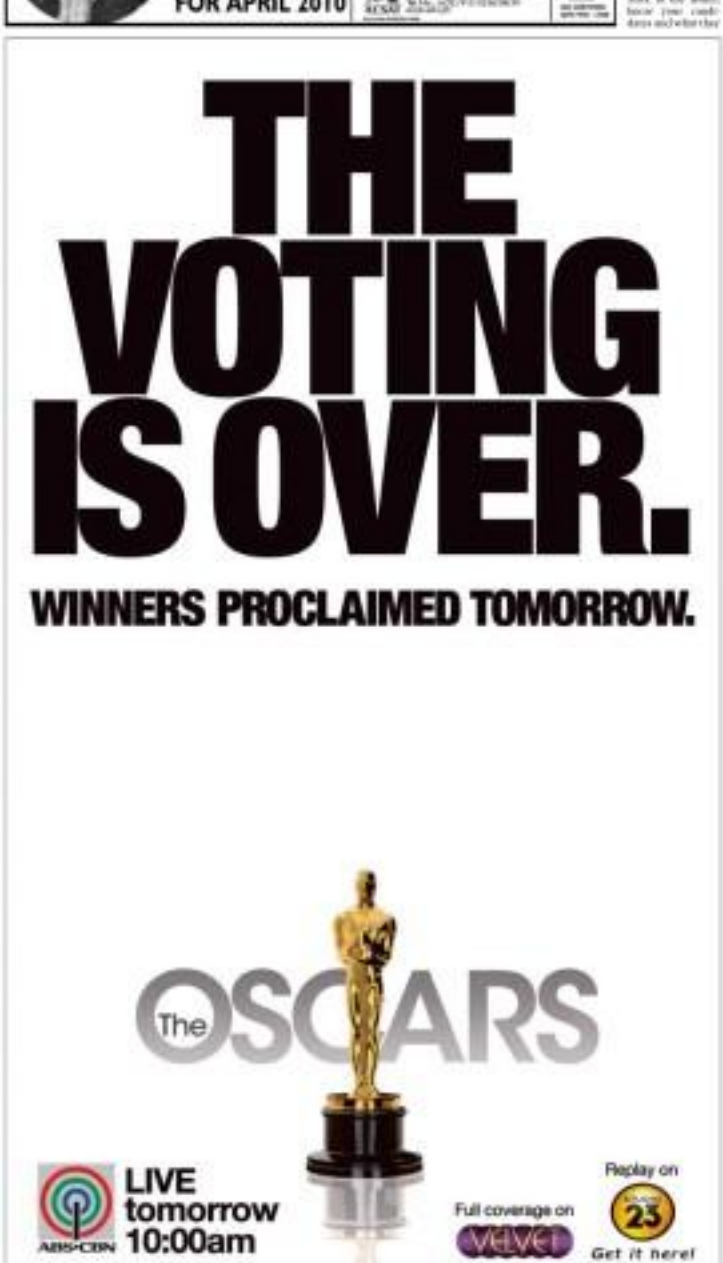
Why are you your voice in time which may have been protecting you from further disappointments by letting these heartbreakers from your life? There are so many things we cannot explain that are happening in life. Yet, like a jigsaw puzzle, everything falls in its proper place and begins to feel right...eventually.

You'll probably meet some more jerks and you'll probably have your heart broken all over again in the near future. There'll be a lot of bitterness and mind-blowing sweet moments. The pride coming in the heels of the valleys. These and more will be taught to you over and over.

Consider these heartaches to be the best advice, the budding blocks, that will mold you and strengthen your character. Take them all and ride with the tide. There's nothing like experiencing heartaches to the fullest—unavoidable as it may sound!

It's then that you will never love as it should when the right person comes along. You're only 28, for heaven's sake!

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph



IN THIS ISSUE
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Sunday LIFESTYLE

InterCon 'alumni' reunite after 40 years —with interesting memories

By Jennifer L. Peña
Contributor

"WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO LEAVE THE offices to another hotel?" the Air Force general manager asked me when I resigned from my job to join InterContinental Manila as its public relations head 37 years ago.

"Not why would she want to continue selling seats?" then hotel general manager Jean-Pierre Ernst, co-starred.

That soon got places," replied the Air Force GM. "Well, our beds never rest!" was the latter's rejoinder, whereupon all three of us burst into laughter.

If you think working for a hotel is all about rooms and restaurants, you are in for a surprise. It is really all about people, their likes and dislikes, their expectations, even their predilection for...

...to Makati City's first five-star hotel, InterContinental Manila has been around for 40 years, a witness to the emergence of Makati as the country's premier financial, entertainment and commercial hub and to many people's milestone events.

Grand reunion

A grand reunion took place a few weeks back to mark the occasion. The two-day affair was attended by InterContinental Hotels Group executives from Europe, Asia and the US, as well as former hotel managers and executive committee members.

Three former general managers flew in—Pierre Mariaert (1974-76), John O'Shea (1976-78), Ed Domingo, on his first day on the job, was alone at the F&B office when Don Jaime Zobel de Ayala called up to ask for food recommendations. 'I was so nervous I broke into a cold sweat,' he recalled

INTERCON /C2

PIERRE Martinez (GM, 1971-73), Fernando Zobel and John D'Silva (GM, 1974-79)

INTERCONTINENTAL Manila GM Charles Marshall, Ayala Hotels COO Al Legaspi and Ralph Pangalinan

JEAN-PIERRE Simon (center) Prince Albert (dad, 1971) and wife, and FC Manila interior designer Rita Hull

HYANG Jessica Hadeus Hurtasia, Ruby Hanyon, Marina Jupiter and Cora Packer

JUN CORNEJO, Iress office manager, 1974-75; Ellen Herrera (food and beverage manager, 1980-87); Cora Packer, Joan Hartwick and Rita Francisco

InterCon 'alumni' reunite . . .

From page B1

(1976-78), and Andrew Gordon (1956-87). It was Blanton, with Gabriella Francisco (director for marketing and public relations then), who first came up with the guest relations concept that both have used almost unchanged.

In the BC find are companies Iress, Francisco-controlled GlobalTrip rep services many moons, or literally by boat, with the clients then treated to fabulous weekends such as trips to Puerto Galera.

Iress – Hilario Lihongco, who joined the hotel as public relations manager in 1975 and went on to become director of sales and marketing, enrolled similar trips to Davao and Baguio, with everything that guests needed provided by "Iress cookbook letters to managers."

"Chefs, waiters were surprised and pleased to see Iress as it ensures that everyone had a great time.

Andrew Quinlan said he took part in Iress L meetings alongside Don Jaime Zobel de Ayala. He chose to Iress with seafood fare for the people cooped on the airport.

He also remembered it was difficult to get depot near lunch' meetings to start on time because the predominantly female assembly would compare shopping notes there.

Steve Hess, who worked in the hotel for 29 years (1969-98) first as bartender and last as head of banquets, couldn't forget the near-rebel soldiers seized the hotel at the height of the 1989 coup d'etat attempt, when left him and 60 other employees stranded inside for several days without guests.

Meals were served cafeteria-style in Prince Albert. When the new French resident manager was overheard by a local executive in the Alfresco area and Tuesday, he ordered the frightened executive, "Steve, don't just run helter-up still!"

Hilario Bautista, food and beverage manager (1973-76), said he met his wife, the former Margie Bautista, in the ballroom while overseeing a function of hotels' agents, of which she was one. "We got married. Fr. Jacinto Alba and Angelo Brat were best man," he said. They are still happily married.

Dolores Gamboa, assistant food and beverage manager (1973-75), boasted that, during his time, InterContinental Manila was "even the hottest of the Food and Beverage Award among InterContinental hotels worldwide."

Gimmick

Dietrich Fiat, food and beverage manager (1979-84), laughingly recounted cheering up in a weeks during and at the opening of a seafood festival at Bahia cooktop restaurant. As a gimmick, he had a big aquarium installed and handed patrons a magnifying glass, promising a free dinner for two to whoever could spot the smallest fish in the aquarium.

Former public relations manager Mabel Rivera de Dayo reminded that of the time she threw a phony at him in a window phone booth (Iress was the room for disbursing information on food promotions at the hotel events. "It will be told, it's always a love-hate relationship between these two departments.

Carlos Canagan, former director of human resources and training, said that, as a young food clerk chef, she always proved that no guest would the display too dull. Gov. Chiteo New Year, a group of Iresses took toasters came to the hotel. Room occupancy was high, so she told them there would only one night. She agreed to a late checkout request by that next locker.

INTERCON C1

LYN HOLLEZO Hamilton (former guest relations director), Wanda Mueller (room division manager, 1988), Rosalia Bautista (director of sales for Asia-Pacific), Marivel Gonzales Bautista (sales manager, 1974-81, assistant executive housekeeper 1981-84), and Jan Gonzales (front office manager, 1994-96)

Sunday Crossword

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

ECONOMIC OUTLOOKS

answer on page C1

HAFAI ADAI GUAM RAFFLE WINNERS AT SM

Five lucky shoppers from SM's previous raffle won a trip for two to Guam during the recent Hafa Adai Guam Grand Raffle Draw held at the SM Mall of Asia. SM Mall of Asia shopper Laurent Dasmariñas, SM City North Philippine customer Cherry Lou Moreno, SM Megamall's Lady Jane Javier and Tonyang Ilo and The Podium's Barbara Tan each won vacation packages to Guam, including a roundtrip ticket for two via Philippine Airlines, a three-day two-night stay at the Hilton Guam, inclusive of breakfast and hotel transfers.

The event marked the culmination of the Hafa Adai Guam promotion, a joint project of the Guam Visitors Bureau, Philippine Airlines, the Hilton Guam and SM's premium malls. Aficionados had the rare opportunity to watch Guamanian dancers perform Chamorro and modern dances and view the travel exhibit that had toured the pre-mium malls.

Guam officials Senator Tina Rose Muna Barnes and Asan-Maina Mayor Annabel Thompson graced the occasion together with Guam Visitors Bureau Deputy General Manager Erna Gatto and Marketing Officer Charlene Hilosis, Guam Visitors Bureau Philippine Office President Herbert Andaluz and General Manager Bryan S. Yeung, together with partners Victoria Sarmiento and Michelle Harvester of Philippine Airlines and Willie Dizon of SM joined them.

Guam, the largest of Micronesia's islands, is America's gateway to the West Pacific and Asia. It is a booming international resort destination with its dramatic coastline, white sand beaches ringed by coral reefs, crystalline waters teeming with exotic marine life.

Guam officials Senator Tina Rose Muna Barnes and Asan-Maina Mayor Annabel Thompson (2nd and third from left) visited the Guam booth at the SM Mall of Asia during the raffle draw. Guam visitors are (from left) SM VP for Marketing Nina Dans; SM Marketing Officer Charlene Hilosis; and SM Philippine Office General Manager Bryan S. Yeung.

Blessed with a balmy tropical climate and gentle trade winds, it has a unique cultural heritage that attracts and resort complexes that dominate the beach front of Tumon and Agana, the surrounding restaurants, malls, golf courses, water sports, and entertainment facilities combine to create a perfect playground for visitors.

Hafa Adai Guam is one of the many exciting events at SM's premium malls.

—pcm

GALLE, nurturing and PR team: Seated (Melchi Gonzales-Bautista, Heidi's Inc./Pia's Nurturing Center Camille Francisco, Rose Marie Libangan, Jen Hidalgo-Hamilton, Janice Medalle-MacDonald and Vicky Perez de Tagle. Standing, 3rd Row: Imelda Timan, Jeanette Reyes, Eleni Rhea, Marvelly Samaniego, Portia Escarlo-Florio, Pet Ramos Badenoll, Carmela Bocanegra, Marissa Bernardino-Aquino, Peachy Recio-Dizon, Sonchita Lozano-Robles, Flora David, Pearl Pesquiza-Gonzales, Dixie Rara and Jennifer Pata. Standing, 2nd row: Jackie Ponson-Marquez, Ginny Pons, Ina Montano-Cortez, Lynn Gamboa-Mangahas, Evelyn Macapagal, Cynthia Lauron-Tan, Marivic Ente-Siaqui, Sylvia Arevalo, Ichi Martinez-Fukui and Patricia Pozo-Palmes

InterCon 'alumni' reunite . . .

From page E2

Instead of the standard 12 p.m. checkout time, she extended it to 5 p.m. The two brides, however, failed to inform the group of this arrangement. When they failed to appear at the agreed time, the two brides-to-be moved Carnegie to make their belongings out of their rooms, promising to sign a waiver of liability.

Left with an empty room since the rooms intended to be oldied up for the new occupants, she asked the duty manager and a security guard to carry out the task. The group Final Scan noticed at the hotel at 7 p.m.

The enraged members encircled Carnegie as she tried to explain things in Cebu. One of them attempted to strike her, but an alert hotel security guard was able to parry the blow. Cody takes the hotel resident manager, who happened to be inside, came down to talk to them and the group threw and table down. Carnegie thinks it was all a matter of culture: a man's sword had more bearing than a woman's in the kingdom.

Another time, while on duty at the Front Desk, she was approached by a young businessman woman. She had just arrived in the country and was supposed to join her husband at the hotel. Hotel records revealed her husband was not in-house.

Managing nevertheless, offered to check with other Makati hotels. As it was getting late, she suggested that the woman check in for the night and continue her search the next day. The woman said she had withdrawn the money not the credit card to do so.

Carnegie's mother, who was waiting for her to finish her shift, overheard their conversation. Taking pity on the woman, she invited her to spend the night in their home, an invitation the latter gratefully accepted. It turned out the woman's husband was a Scandinavian airways pilot and that his crew was billeted at Hyatt hotel. To thank the Carnegies for their kindness, the couple asked the family out to dinner.

From CBD to singer

Popular singer, stage and TV actress Pinky Marquez was a guest relations officer at InterContinental Manila in the early '80s, until comedian Gary Liming walked into the lobby and discovered she could sing. Six-of-level-bars gigs after office hours.

Pretty soon, she started earning P5,000 a month from singing, compared to her meager hotel salary of P600. When guest relations manager Gina Pacheco found out about this, she told Marquez to embark on a singing career.

Chuli Jose, rooms division director then on Nalo, said the hotel was always a step ahead of the competition. Aside from placing the CBD program, it was also the first hotel to put up a Business Center in 1976.

Former sales executive Lynn Halasa, meanwhile, was asked to take good care of a top client, Hilke Hamchen. But only did she take her client on to Sear, she ended up marrying Hamilton.

Richard Taffs, former executive sous chef, flew in for the occasion with wife Carol Jones, former personnel assistant, from Phuket where he is the director of food and beverage at the JW Marriott Resort.

"The mentality of the InterContinental Manila team is fantastic. I cannot forget the themed coffee breaks during the regional managers meeting in 1995," he said.

One of these coffee breaks had a soap opera theme complete with "armed" hotel personnel in military fatigues positioned at the second floor ballroom windows. Inflatable a real helicopter hovered above. Food was lofted over from big cauldrons, and instead of tables there were sandbags.

For Ed Domingo, who worked in the hotel from 1975-2002, his first day on the job as assistant food and beverage manager was his baptism of fire.

He was alone at the F&B office when hotel senior, Don Jaime Zobel de Ayala, called up to ask for food recommendations for a business lunch at the Prince Albert.

"I was so nervous that I broke into a cold sweat," he said. Luckily, Don Jaime was not a fussy person and thanked him for his suggestion of French onion soup and US prime rib of beef.

RIGHT Authors, Margie Stevens, Maria Alexandra Pantoni and Helene Goldberger

For many alumni, their stint in the hotel has served as springboard to interesting jobs or careers. Larry Cortez, a managing partner of a string of restaurants (Gaudi and Old Wine Grille) in Metro Manila, started out as casual banquet waiter at InterContinental Manila in 1989.

Springboard

Public relations manager Peachy Recio-Dizon is now advertising director for Louis Vuitton in Asia-Pacific. Jun Cornelio, 1972-74 front office manager, is now a diamond consultant for Tiffany's at Coral Gables, Florida. Avelan Wee restaurants and host manager Merrilyn Sarangaya is now the banquet manager of Hotel Sofitel in London.

Purchasing agent Bobby Cuipio went on to become one of the first Filipino general managers of a five-star hotel. Peking Manila, the hotel's first head concierge, and wife Marlene Lopez Martin, fashion accessories boutique, now run a successful general contractor/civil business servicing top real-estate developers. Ichi Martinez Yabes, former sales manager, is now a candidate for Makati City councilor.

Piero Librizzi is the current director of sales and marketing of Sofitel Philippine Plaza, and president of the Hotel Sales & Marketing Association and MTE Phils. Former front office clerk (1998-99) Robert Francisco is now the President of Royale Coffee. Former assistant front office manager Romy Antillero is now the front office manager of the Raffles Plaza in Suzhou, China.

Executive assistant manager Manny Mercado is now the general manager of the Mactan Island Hotel in Jakarta. Regional training director for Asia Marissa Fernandez-Aquino now does ad hoc consultancies. Executive chef and Prince Albert chef Cyrille Bouvet who now has his own restaurant in Makati, Cirque. And Patricia Payet-Palmes, director of food and beverage, is now the director for special events at the InterContinental Dubai.

InterContinental Manila, with its many significant achievements and innovations, will always have a special place in the hearts and minds of the men and women who worked together to make it all happen.

ANSWERS TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

First Filipina supermodel is finally home

Tetta Agustin, discovered by Givenchy and once the house mannequin of YSL, hosts a house blessing of her Greenhills base

By Larry Levitz
Core Beaver

HOUSE BLESSING IS A DEEP Filipino tradition. It is not only an occasion for praying over the new home but for having a family reunion and even a party. This is true especially when the presiding over the rites is Archbishop Jose Villegas and providing the feast is Le Souffle.

That is exactly what Tetta Agustin and husband, Dr. Christian Bautista, did last week. Tetta was the first Filipina supermodel. In the '70s, she was the only Asian mannequin de cuisine (house model) of the late great Yves Saint Laurent who reined on Town's positive ebullient energy to cheer him up when Saint Laurent needed inspiration to do sketches for his couture collections.

Tetta's only daughter, Tissa, is the goddaughter of design great Hubert de Givenchy who first discovered Tetta in Paris and took more late fellow grace and graceful promotion on the catwalk.

Living in Paris and London, Tetta practically invented overseas Filipina worker money remittances and with her business acumen was able to purchase property in

GABRIEL Castillo, Christian Bautista, Mitzi Castillo, Tetta Agustin, Jerard and Jean Castillo

BEAUTIFUL Ching Cruz

RUBY Tuason

IAN PILLAMORE

CHRISTIAN Bautista and Archbishop Jose Villegas

KARA, Arlene and Paul Alipalo

AGNES Hubenthal

Metz and London.

Happily married today Tetta lives in Brussels most of the year, visiting their Avenue Foch apartment to check on Tissa who is studying in Paris.

In her golden age, Tetta and Philippe have decided to purchase a home in Greenhills to be closer to family and friends. It's the perfect place to escape the winters of Europe, which is particularly bitter and cold this year.

So last week, with fashion friends like Lauren Silva, Rusty Lopez and Thereza Carandang Santos, society pals Gloria Diaz, Chris Medina, Ian Villanueva, and the full force of Edven, Louie, Mats, Shandi and Candy Cruz, Tetta held a house blessing of her new Wilshire home.

There was the rare appearance of Boy Gonzalez who never worked for the House Of Lauren and since has been working in his mother's atelier, the venerable BT Pucao. Tetta's friend Cielo Intengan a connoisseur cream puff hostess gown just for the occasion.

Tetta's intimate but wonderfully evening of good food, Nam Red Bull, before confessions and the best dancing I have seen this year.

DR. CARLITOS Magsanoc and the author

CYNTHIA Villar and Lani Sitoy

CHONY Jimenez and Monch Cruz

GINA Magsanoc and Dr. Tipoc Pascual

Special-edition magazine spotlights Chinese weddings

ALL THE COLOR, ROMANCE AND intricate detail of a perfect Chinese wedding come to life in the pages of "Asian Dragon Weddings: A Guide to the Perfect Chinese Wedding"—from the first hint of parental disapproval and the first hint of engagement ceremony, affairs laden with ritual and symbolism, to the dazzle of engagement and dowry jewelry. Even exquisite hemstitched robes in ingenious Chinese themes as subtle label with bride, groom and their closest personal concerns such as fine flatware and cutlery for the master table, to the finer points of choosing a best license.

Published by the same group behind Asian Dragon, the lifestyle and business magazine that has successfully become the voice of the Chinese Filipino, the 200-page magazine is the comprehensive guide to a dream wedding.

With "the return to elegance" as its theme, and model Ana Bulosan photographed for the cover in a gown by Philip Tsudegram, the special issue is packed with over 200 wedding details, from inspirations and resources to accessories and weddings.

The pages contain a parade of beautiful wedding gowns by the country's top designers, from masters like Angge Cordero, Frederick Peralta and Randy Ortiz, to younger talents like Jerry Gamboa, Ivanhoe Aseron and many more; along with fashions for the groom, entourage and godparents.

A spread, exquisite with vintage pictures, features convertible gowns that can take one from formal ceremony to dance reception.

For photographer Leo Lleera's share of the guests, "Asian Dragon Weddings" editor-in-chief and creative and art director Isabel Chen chose three of the country's most important old churches—the Unesco World Heritage Site San Agustin Church in Intramuros, Binondo Church in Pampanga and San Sebastian Church in Manila, both recognized as National Cultural Treasures by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

Also thrown in are additional details from head (the ideal length of veil, romantic hairstyles) to toe (the most delicate shoes and hose), and even underneath (lingerie for the honeymoon).

The articles and stories cover history, tradition and helpful advice for newlyweds, from property sharing tips to issues that must be clarified before a couple takes the plunge, such as names, children and individual career goals.

With all this information, accompanied by sumptuous photographs, "Asian Dragon Weddings" is bound to be a collector's piece. In the words of publisher Chona Limpe-Sze, "It's a special issue, one that probably will never be duplicated or equaled."

"Asian Dragon Weddings: A Guide to the Perfect Chinese Wedding" is now available at selected bookstores and magazine outlets nationwide.

Adlyanna Velasco's debut

MORE THAN A HUNDRED guests Gimpel to the Plaza Burgos along Timog Avenue in Quezon City last Jan. 23 to celebrate the debut of Adlyanna Dy Velasco who turned 18 on Jan. 14.

The debut celebration dubbed "The 18th Revelry" was attended by her close relatives, friends, high school classmates from Stella Maris College and classmates from the University of Santo Tomas, and by her godparents.

The debutante looked very elegant in her gown, made of red wine and gold silk organza with gold beaded accents that herself designed and executed by Stephen of Manila, as she descended the stairs lined up with roses and set and gold flowers, and walked through an arch of flowers at the stairs' landing.

She then proceeded to sit on a swing below a gazebo on a stage adorned with gold and flowers and drapes.

The debut ceremonies started with an invocation by her fun cousin Megan Buenaobra and immediately followed by a ballet dance.

An audiovisual presentation of the debutante's milestones in her life was also shown on an LCD screen.

Her 18 Knights then danced with her in the soothing music of the Blue Symphony of the Ateneo de Manila University followed by the lighting of 18 candles by 18 Misses who gave their good wishes to her and the giving of 18 Rose rosaries to the debutante.

The program was crowned by Adlyanna's high-school classmates Janine Dalida and Pia Ferrer.

Among her mirrors and mirrors who attended the event were Fe de la Cruz, director of the corporate affairs office of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas; Alex Escalona, first vice president of China Banking Corp., and his wife, Rose; Fred Mercado, business editor of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and his wife, Yvonne; and Ramsey Flowers, assistant business editor of the Philippine Star and his wife, Annie.

Other mirrors who dropped by were Abel Cunday, associate editor of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and Ray Evano, business editor of the Manila Standard.

The debut celebration was capped by an exclusive party at Yes 82 Music Bar along Scout Tuazon Ave. in Quezon City where the debutante and her guests danced the night away.

Adlyanna is a sophomore nursing student at the University of Santo Tomas. She is the eldest daughter of Adlyanna's dad, editor Adlai Noel O. Velasco and Faye F. Velasco.

WITH PROUD parents Noel and Faye, and younger sister Adelaine

WITH UNCLE Noynoy, aunt Fonda, and cousins Jenkins, Jericho and Camila

WITH godparents

YUVIENCO-GALLEGOS NUPTIALS

Ever green wedding

Here are tips on how to make your altar date environmentally correct

By Jennifer Christine Gallegos
Correspondent

JASON AND I HAVE BEEN shutterbuds: sunshiners, running mates, kissing partners, kitchen experimenters and mouth pit stainers, but most of all, we have been best friends.

With our parents, Lope and Dolly Yuvienco and Jess and Gigi Gallegos, we invited friends and family to join us at the starting line of the most marvelous event of our lives as we become husband and wife last Jan. 16 at the St. Francisdan Chapel, Pico Park, Manila.

The ceremony was officiated by Fr. Jessie Peel, SCJ, a friend of the family.

When we started going out, Jason told me, "I don't have any connections really good to have you in my life." An incredible sweet as his declaration of unconditional love was, I couldn't help but thoughtfully counter, "I think it's because we are destined to have each other, it is our lives that's why we have to do good."

And so began our plans for a green wedding. As challenging as it was to embark on, we are mighty pleased with the outcome.

Rings and symbols. Our green wedding started with Jason's engagement ring: a beautiful family heirloom from Jason's grandfather. Knowing what you already have is not only kinder to the earth but also makes for more meaningful and personal symbols. We also reused the ring bearer and coin bearer pillows; cord, veil and earlier from friend's sister's previous wedding. Pat didn't buy shoes and made do with what we had.

Location. We chose a historical landmark like Paco Park over a formal, energy-sucking reception hall. The venue for we paid will help maintain the building and grounds and boost the economy of this national treasure.

Reception. The reception was also held right outside the church to minimize the amount of driving our guests will need to do and to enjoy the beautiful garden — a natural outdoor décor.

Earth-friendly. DECOrise and landscaping artist extraordinaire Ivy Meow Reyes was on standby at the reception tables for guests who may be prone to getting litter.

Even with the striking up of tunes in one of our friends God's drive!), it was common to see the litter cleaned up.

Bridal car. When my Dad learned I planned to walk from a friend's modest apartment, he borrowed a Civic Hybrid for our bridal car instead (we brought no flowers around).

Wedding wear. Jason used a leasing supply for his attire. My dress was made of existing material given by Jason's uncle, and executed according to my design by Hope Amoroso. The reason is our entourage wore "infinity" dresses by Inah Panlilio-Widow. Although the material is synthetic, they can wrinkle the dresses are cool wear and wear them again.

We encouraged the rest of our entourage to use something they already had, or have clothes made from hanging, hemp, bamboo, organic cotton or silk.

Food. We hosted on delicious organic and local food by Bistu. The patisseries gave the most thoughtful attention in consideration of our organic-cheap needs.

SPECIAL: second St. Francisdan Chapel

THE 'GREEN' wedding of Mark Jason Yuvienco and Jennifer Christine Gallegos

ATTENDANCE: Bridesmaids

JESS and Gigi Gallegos, the mother and husband Jason, Cindy and Lope Yuvienco

Flowers. We opted to use only potted plants organic-local growers in possible. Except for what the church insisted to provide, other than my own flowers, since they are mostly imported and are known pesticide users. Fake flowers was not an option. For the process to create there is more circle recycle thinking, Bendor, the flowers already blossomed in our garden setting.

Hand-tied handbouquets made of old newspapers and twine by Up Cycled created bouquets for the maids of honor, bridesmaids and friends as corsages, instead of the usual flowery garb, cute and sweet gifts found at our candy from their "upcycled" an. access to all the guests.

Lighting, gifts and decor. We chose to give gifts of soy-based candles by Aloe Blue over those made with paraffin, a petroleum byproduct. They may be a bit pricier than regular petroleum-made candles, but Aloe soy candles do not pollute, are not made from harmful materials, and last longer and so are more cost-effective in the long run. We also gave away organic lip balms by Rosanna Roces Nakpil for our Christmas gift and perfect for the guests.

Our lighting supplier was used LED light which emit less heat and use even less power than the already eco-friendly CFL bulbs. Bride's stylist Mario cleverly created unique centerpieces made of bamboo and potted plants which the guests happily brought home.

Cake. The wedding cake and the cookie giveaways that Jason and I lovingly hand-made using pre-organic sugar were all edible to nature (and to us). To make each edible means personal, we used photos of us and our friends which fit ages for table numbers (e.g. Table 1 = photos of our one-year-old selves).

Honeymoon. We chose to go local (we'd spend a lot of time in that book) so as not to travel. On our way to and from Boracay, we chose to offset our carbon emissions caused by our plane travel. Cebu Pacific has partnered with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-Philippines). Through the "Bright Ideas" program to fight global warming and climate change. It's our bid to do our share in environmental reconciliation, we have donated a minimal amount during our initial. Cebu Pacific, which will be used to support WWF-Philippines' community-based climate adaptation projects in Bohol, Palawan.

Every green choice makes a difference — we wanted how much!

Blessed Andre Bessette, devotee of St. Joseph, to be canonized in Rome

He's been called the 'miracle man of Canada'

ORDER 16, 1966, I WENT FOR THE first time, up Mount Royale in Montreal, Canada, where the Oratory of St. Joseph was built by Blessed Andre Bessette in 1904. I was with Fr. Bernie Lapoint, who was then serving as church in Ottawa.

We visited the tomb of Blessed Andre, which is reserved in the crypt of the church. Behind it was a room with 3 tall images of St. Joseph surrounded with lights.

Now that the Congregation of the Causes of Saints has approved the canonization of Blessed Andre on Dec. 17 in the consistory with the Pope, "Blessed" is that last time visit his Greatest more pilgrims for me. I remember praying before his tomb and asking him to help me with some problems at that time, and he did. His intense devotion to St. Joseph has inspired me to do the same.

Building the oratory

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Astonishing cure

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Centering prayer

Outreach Philippines is marking 20 years of spreading the practice of "Centering Prayer" among the Filipino faith.

On March 13, 4 p.m., the CEO-hosted, together with its spiritual advisors and friends, will come together for a simple fete to celebrate the occasion.

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Barracso

Joining a friend to save on added carbon emissions that go with hotel setups. The result was to simply personal redirection of resources to my luxury.

Favors. We used so many potted plants organic-local growers in possible. Except for what the church insisted to provide, other than my own flowers, since they are mostly imported and are known pesticide users. Fake flowers was not an option. For the process to create there is more circle recycle thinking, Bendor, the flowers already blossomed in our garden setting.

Hand-tied handbouquets made of old newspapers and twine by Up Cycled created bouquets for the maids of honor, bridesmaids and friends as corsages, instead of the usual flowery garb, cute and sweet gifts found at our candy from their "upcycled" an. access to all the guests.

Lighting, gifts and decor. We chose to give gifts of soy-based candles by Aloe Blue over those made with paraffin, a petroleum byproduct. They may be a bit pricier than regular petroleum-made candles, but Aloe soy candles do not pollute, are not made from harmful materials, and last longer and so are more cost-effective in the long run. We also gave away organic lip balms by Rosanna Roces Nakpil for our Christmas gift and perfect for the guests.

Our lighting supplier was used LED light which emit less heat and use even less power than the already eco-friendly CFL bulbs. Bride's stylist Mario cleverly created unique centerpieces made of bamboo and potted plants which the guests happily brought home.

Cake. The wedding cake and the cookie giveaways that Jason and I lovingly hand-made using pre-organic sugar were all edible to nature (and to us). To make each edible means personal, we used photos of us and our friends which fit ages for table numbers (e.g. Table 1 = photos of our one-year-old selves).

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Every green choice makes a difference — we wanted how much!

Blessed Andre Bessette, devotee of St. Joseph, to be canonized in Rome

He's been called the 'miracle man of Canada'

ORDER 16, 1966, I WENT FOR THE first time, up Mount Royale in Montreal, Canada, where the Oratory of St. Joseph was built by Blessed Andre Bessette in 1904. I was with Fr. Bernie Lapoint, who was then serving as church in Ottawa.

We visited the tomb of Blessed Andre, which is reserved in the crypt of the church. Behind it was a room with 3 tall images of St. Joseph surrounded with lights.

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Every green choice makes a difference — we wanted how much!

The first Philippine International Pyromusical Competition at SM Mall of Asia Bay in Pasay City.

Pyromusical at SM Mall of Asia

By Ruth L. Navarro

NOT in the mood for a display of fireworks and you get a bullet of electricity in the sky?

Add some firedancers on the ground, loud and thick bombs every other minute and someone to share the moment with you and you end up with memorable night. That is SM Philippine International Pyromusical Competition at the SM Mall of Asia (MOA) concert ray ambience that you're craving for.

There is a variety of packages to choose from at the MOA concert ray. Whether you want to splurge or not depends on your budget. Some packages are inclusive of dinner at the restaurants in the area while others are not. Prices range from P1,500 to P5,000 per person.

Perhaps, the most ideal package is the one that includes dinner at the restaurants in the area. Dinner is served at 6 p.m. and the fireworks display starts at 8 p.m. Guests are treated to a front row seat to the show.

Be as choosy as you want to be especially if you have an extra dinner ticket or any of the restaurants with reservation. If you're feeling a little generous, treat your partner to a buffet dinner at the VIP section.

It's not just the food that you're getting from the price. You also get the best seat in the house—even the boardwalk, close to the action. For avoidance to be at the far end of the show especially when the fireworks are over your head and you have a clear view of the ocean where it reflects the lights.

The entrance is also facing the competing nations. France and Japan battled it out last Sunday. They're competing against the United States, United Kingdom, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia and China. The Philippines will end a month-long fireworks exhibition show on March 14.

Each country is given 19-20 minutes each for their display. They have to include an excerpt of "Take me to the Philippines" by Apl of Black Eyed Peas in their program. They are judged according to choreography, variety of colors, synchronization with the music and general presentation.

Frisco delegate Bernard Flores made sure they represented the romantic nature of his people by pulling two listings with French songs. It was also a way of introducing their culture to the Filipino people.

They showed a lot of their personality by displaying it into multi-color fireworks but only made use of one color for each hand. He says that they're like only distinguishable down that.

Japanese then turned pleases for the night as they stretched their storytelling skills by making use of popular songs like "Pink Panther Theme" and "What a Wonderful World".

Perhaps the highlight of their display was when they unfolded the colors reminiscent to the "Rainbow Flag". They used neon colorshow they use smiley faces heart-shaped lights and waves dedicating their presentation.

"I mostly listen to the music first and then I come up with the recipe of the fireworks that will best suit it," says Japanese delegate Takanori Ikuta.

Ikuta laughed when asked if they practice their display before they show it to the public. He says it's too expensive.

"I see you Sunday with the types of fireworks and I make use of computers to go the rough the others," he says.

All the participating nations are from land-receiving companies that are either champions or other international pyromusical competitions or have presented in big international events.

"The Filipinos don't have to spend money to travel to Korea or Macau to witness such events. They can watch it right here," says Steven Tan, AVP for Operations of SMDC.

It is a sentiment echoed by Rosie who attended the show. Susan Lucallo brought her daughter to the show and said that it had been beautiful. She is planning other members of her family to watch it again.

"The music adds to the energy of the fireworks. You just watch other fireworks competitions, but with pyromusical, you also have to listen," says 22-year-old Mapua student Paiple Salcedo.

The Pyromusical might have battle of prestige and a Ramon Ortiz trophy for the participating nations. But for the audience, it's an experience for the senses.

The International Philippine Pyromusical Competition is held every Sunday until March 14. Countries Malaysia and Singapore will present on March 7, Australia and Philippines on March 14. Tickets are available for P900, 150, 200, 900, and P1,200 (all children). Visit www.pyrofestivalpower.com.

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Singapore Malaysia

March 7

Australia Philippines

March 14

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GMA

PLATINUM

The first Philippine International Pyromusical Competition at SM Mall of Asia Bay in Pasay City.

ENTERTAINMENT
Editor Bonnie D. Velarde

Our choices for this year's Oscars

Or why Quentin Tarantino should win his 2nd Academy trophy now

By Cinemalaya C. Tejero

THE 82ND ACADEMY AWARDS, for which 5,800 members cast their votes in 25 categories for our annual amusement, should be a breeze even for those who are not cursing it amidst a psychic chaos that nothing else can quench.

This year, the Best Motion Picture category has been expanded, doubling the number of nominees to 10—the biggest since 1944—to offset many wonder as act of penance for snubbing "The Dark Knight" last year.

In turn, contending for Best Picture are "Avatar" by James Cameron; "The Hurt Locker" by Kathryn Bigelow; "Inglourious Basterds," Quentin Tarantino; "Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire;" Lee Daniels; "Up in the Air," Jason Reitman; "District 9," Neill Blomkamp; "The Blind Side," John Lee Hancock; "An Education," Lone Scherfig; "A Serious Man," Joel and Ethan Coen; "Up," Pete Docter.

In previous years, only the first five would have made it to the list. The rest seem to have been added as an afterthought, as often happens with the Oscars. They probably thought this was overdrive. In fact, it raised more ques-

MORE ON H2

TARANTINO, genre bender of the first order, an object of his "Inglourious Basterds."

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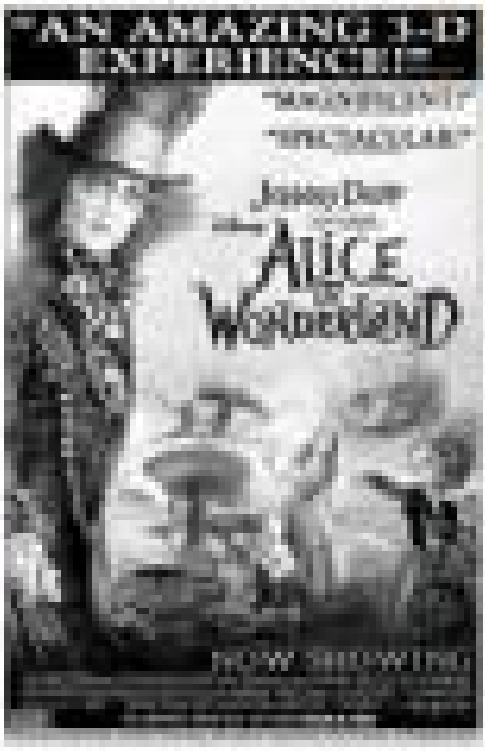
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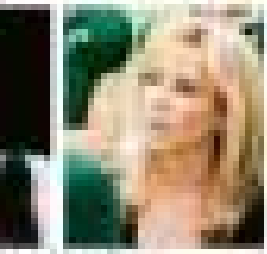

for this year's Oscars

"THE RED SHOES is original and [illegible] engaging... never the [illegible] same."

"Thrilling moment by moment [illegible]."

"It is very original. The story is not [illegible]."

"A lot of films look good on paper, but not this one. [illegible]."

"It is a breath of fresh air compared to [illegible]."

"This is my favorite movie [illegible]."

"I especially liked the ending of the movie. It was exciting and [illegible]."

"[illegible]."

"It's [illegible]."

"It is very refreshing [illegible]."

"[illegible]."

Starring the wife of Angel Locsin, Jessica Sanchez

Our choices . . .

Review pages H3

plus the human pathos that imbues each scene should make this a winner.

Cameron and Bigelow married for two years in the early '90s are in a lock for Best Picture and first Director—and their contest has been dubbed "Battle of the Exes."

But while he is a consummate, her films are largely unsentimental, very masculine, both could win either of the two categories and it wouldn't detract the order of the contests.

Top choice

Of the three, "Avatar" is the most enjoyable. "The Hurt Locker" seems most like left hits, and "Inglourious Basterds" is the most intellectually stimulating and aesthetically pleasing.

Our top choice is not one of them, though. That would be "A Serious Man," about a Jewish family on the verge of a nervous breakdown. This film possesses all the foregoing superlative traits of those three.

We can only hope Lawrence's work as Best Picture, If "Avatar" wins, he would be first as Director. If Inglourious can that crushing her a historical figure, but female to have scored it, then maybe he can have Best Original Screenplay but for that he has to contend with the Coen brothers—a really tough competition.

Inglourious won his only Oscar for the screenplay of "Pulp Fiction" 15 years ago. That's probably because he made only a few films, unlike like Kubrick and Welles. Now seems to be the right time to get that his second Academy trophy. They could done him that, of course, in their eternal regret.

The acting categories are not as contentious as last year's. We can't help noticing that the dead-end life has become a recurrence theme in many Oscar entries—not in any that some have parallel story lines and even, unusually dynamics, such as "Up in the Air" and "The Messenger," "The Blind Side" and "Precious," or "Crazy Heart" and last year's "The Wrestler."

Jeff Bridges in "Crazy Heart" is a shoo-in for Best Actor. His portrayal of an alcoholic singer-songwriter whose life is spinning down and who is seeking redemption in love, family and career recalls Sinatra's gigs in "Leaving Las Vegas"—but less bleak.

Here, Bridges reveals the subtlety of his youth, the small southwestern American nuance of "The Last Picture Show" 40 years ago. It is interesting to compare his performance from the rookiness of his youth to the world-weariness of his late maturity. That's why the song "The Weary Kind" is organic to this film.

Main event

Another shoo-in is Christoph Waltz for Best Supporting Actor, as the Jew Hunter in "Inglourious Basterds." Still another is Mo'Nique for Best Supporting Actress, as the abusive mother in "Precious." If there was winner in the picture, we'd be rooting for Woody Harrelson in "The Messenger" (runs Kendrick in "Up in the Air."

So the main events is Best Actress. And here viewers have a real dilemma. Sandra Bullock is an appealing gal, but she's up against the First Lady of American Movies, the indomitable Meryl Streep, in a white maniac who adopts a black teen and turns him into a football star in "The Blind Side," Bullock is likely to get the trophy, but for the wrong reason.

As Oscar history, Streep has had the most number of nominations (14) of all actors living or dead. So we were surprised to learn that her last win had come nearly 30 years ago, for "Sophie's Choice." Her performances have always been additive, in comedy or drama. She is the better to root hread, and we can't have enough hatred.

Once again, as the American chef in "Julie, Julia Child, to "Julie & Julia," she proves she can play anything, with matching accents. Still, one like color suggests that she be signed for the sequel of the short parable "Gloria 4," and cast as a prawn.

For Best Animated Feature, "Up" is another shoo-in. Which makes this year's Oscars as The Year of the Shoo-ins. Less exciting than the last maybe, but still entertained.

Toy Kingdom's Iron Man 2 Exclusive Toy Event

The much awaited Iron Man 2 film is scheduled to hit the screens this summer, but fans of all ages will have the rare chance to get a glimpse of new toys and collectibles inspired by the movie in Toy Kingdom's Iron Man 2 Exclusive Event at the SM Megamall Event Center on Sunday, March 7, 2010.

This day marks the worldwide release of Iron Man 2 toys and collectibles, and you can be one of the first to see these during the exclusive Toy Kingdom event.

The event will also feature an exhibit of toys and products from the Iron Man franchise, and photo-op centers wherein customers can have their photo taken with an Iron Man statue for a minimum P500 purchase. Cosplayers wearing costumes from the Iron Man franchise will also be joining in the fun.

Kids can join in exciting games like the Toy Vault, Target Practice, Pass the Core, the Iron Man Word Mash Trivia Quiz, the Assemble My Armor puzzle challenge, and get a chance to win Iron Man prizes and giveaways. Parents can also channel their creativity with the Color-Up Iron Man computer kits and the Design My Armor contest for teens and adults.

Iron Man, who is also known by his alter ego Tony Stark, first appeared in the 1963 Marvel comic book Tales of Suspense as an anti-communist hero during the Vietnam War. In 1968, he finally made his solo comic book debut in the Invincible Iron Man series, and soon the character was adapted into animated TV shows, video games, live-action movies, and toy lines from Hasbro.

Tony Stark is a wealthy and highly intelligent weapons engineer and electrical engineering. As Iron Man, his red and gold armor gives him superhuman strength and physical protection, and also provides him with a number of weapons like missile launchers, lasers, sonic beams, flamethrowers, and energy shields. This makes the super cool superhero that has attracted millions of fans for generations.

Catch the Iron Man-ia at Toy Kingdom Express outlets at SM Department Stores and at Toy Kingdom stores at SM Manila, the Podium, U-Rest, SM Megamall, SM Southmall, SM City Fairview, The Block at SM City North EDSA, and the SM Mall of Asia. In the provincial areas, these are located at the SM Supermalls in Pampanga, Lucena, Marilao, Baguio, Batangas, Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro, and Cebu. Iloilo, Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro, and Davao in the Visayas area. Also visit our website at www.toykingdom.ph

Have your photo taken with cosplayers wearing costumes inspired by the Iron Man franchise at Toy Kingdom's Iron Man 2 Exclusive Toy Event on March 7 at the SM Megamall Event Center

ENTERTAINMENT

JOHN Lloyd Cruz with co-star partner Bea Alonzo during the premiere night of their latest movie, "Mga Pusang Gala" (ligaw)

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Singer crosses channels twice

TALE MIGHT PROGRAM IN TWO RIVERS Singing idol left Home Network and moved to Fledgling Channel. At first assignment, it was set to taps a commercial for PC. Then, GI had a sudden change of heart.

At the very last minute, it transferred to HM's Top Brand. Funny thing was, TB had earlier rejected it.

SJ was enticed by a bigger offer from TN, which includes a shot on a new program that will be pitted against an old show.

So much for loyalty.

Rushes Sunday

Nut his type

At least two show biz insiders warn that Daniel some think is not Gay Manager's new lover.

Both sources quote GM as saying that HH isn't his type. Since once, HH is still seriously involved with Francois Dirocket. But the presentations seem a tad too indignant—suspiciously so.

After all, GM allegedly lambasted a project for HH and was purportedly instrumental in securing a major gig for FD.

Insiders assure: GM just considers HH a "good investment," Staff said.

War of words

A word war is brewing in TV Land. A mole says Beautiful four has had enough of snide remarks thrown her way by Controversial Co-member.

BS noted that CC is relentless in a campaign to reportage, if not sabotage, her. CC is determined to make BS look dumb on air, said a spy. So BS decided to leave CC's company and join a rival group. BS is sure to prove she can do a better job than CC.

Package deal

Istanbul Manager received a contract sung by signing two talents with Emerging Channel.

IC was originally interested only in Viste Actor, but HM dangled another tie

VINCENT S

SUDDENLY, GROWN-UPS Billy Crawford and Nikki Gil look very grown-up during Yahoo Channel's Tribute to the Divers on Thursday.

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THE FOURTH KIND
THE ROAD

CITY MANILA
COP OUT
UP IN THE AIR
ALICE IN WONDERLAND
MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
ALICE IN WONDERLAND
THE ROAD

FESTIVE
COP OUT
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ALICE IN WONDERLAND
THE ROAD

CITY SAN LAZARO
COP OUT
UP IN THE AIR
PERCY JACKSON
ALICE IN WONDERLAND
MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
ALICE IN WONDERLAND
COP OUT

CITY STA. MESA
COP OUT
UP IN THE AIR
ALICE IN WONDERLAND
MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
ALICE IN WONDERLAND
THE ROAD

MASINAG
ALICE IN WONDERLAND
THE FOURTH KIND
PERCY JACKSON
ALICE IN WONDERLAND
MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
THE ROAD

CITY SAN LAZARO
COP OUT
UP IN THE AIR
PERCY JACKSON
ALICE IN WONDERLAND
MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
ALICE IN WONDERLAND
COP OUT

VALENZUELA
COP OUT
UP IN THE AIR
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ALICE IN WONDERLAND
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CITY EASTWOOD
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MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
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THE ROAD

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CITY PAMPANGA
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ALICE IN WONDERLAND
DEAR JOHN

CITY LIPA
MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
ALICE IN WONDERLAND
DEAR JOHN

CITY LAGUNA
MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
ALICE IN WONDERLAND
DEAR JOHN

CITY CLARK
ALICE IN WONDERLAND
FROM PARIS WITH LOVE
MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
UP IN THE AIR

CITY BATANGAS
ALICE IN WONDERLAND
MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
DEAR JOHN

CITY BATANGAS
COP OUT
MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
ALICE IN WONDERLAND

CITY TRIANGULO
ALICE IN WONDERLAND
MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
DEAR JOHN

CITY STA. ROSA
FROM PARIS WITH LOVE
PERCY JACKSON
MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
ALICE IN WONDERLAND

CITY DAGUPAN
COP OUT
ALICE IN WONDERLAND
MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
ALICE IN WONDERLAND

CITY TARLAC
COP OUT
ALICE IN WONDERLAND
MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
ALICE IN WONDERLAND

CITY SAN FERNANDO
COP OUT
ALICE IN WONDERLAND
MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
ALICE IN WONDERLAND

CITY OLONGAPO
COP OUT
ALICE IN WONDERLAND
MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
ALICE IN WONDERLAND

BALANGA
MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
ALICE IN WONDERLAND
FROM PARIS WITH LOVE

BAGUIO
MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
ALICE IN WONDERLAND
FROM PARIS WITH LOVE

visayas • mindanao

CITY BACOLOD
ALICE IN WONDERLAND
MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
COP OUT

CITY CEBU
ALICE IN WONDERLAND
MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
COP OUT

CITY ILOILO
ALICE IN WONDERLAND
MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY
COP OUT

CAGAYAN DE ORO
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ILOCOS NORTE
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2 PERCY JACKSON & OLYMPIANS (Digital 3D)
3 MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY

Singer crosses channels twice

Photograph by

...ge rulers, Gorgeous Celebrity.

Fortunately, EC took the hint and EC benefited from the cash windfall.

Then MH offered another talent, Flashy Host, but EC declined. For now.

No quitter

Now, it can be told. Did Eugenie almost quit Pyramid Soup. Whatever for?

I'd was unhappy about the way Present Manager handled her career, particularly her delayed launch on the stage.

EB had already met with Rival Channel, but cooler heads prevailed and she finally stayed with PM and MS.

Rigadoo Roco

The buzz in TV Land is that Peko and Dodonio Roco have decided to leave GMA 7 and are signing up with ABS-CBN soon.

If true, this will be a homecoming of sorts for the twins, who started out as Rigadoo Boys.

Gutierrez family soap

Reliable sources have confirmed that actor Richard Gutierrez is the new host of the GMA 7 reality show "Survivor Philippines," taking over the slot left by Paolo Bediones who has joined TV5.

Sources say Gutierrez's camp will sit down with network execs "to iron out details."

Credit for the coup goes to Gutierrez's manager-mother Annabelle Rama who also masterminded daughter Ruffa's move from ABS-CBN to TV5.

As Ruffa pointed out, "We're in all three [networks]."

Top of the tabloids

The top show biz stories in Japanese tabloid Bandera this week. (And why we are moved...)

- Aljur hiding buzz in hand-day Go...o mania. (Well, that certainly rates quite a point.)
- Paulo Gonzalez get ne gie ang body. (This one, too.)
- Angel Locsin, Aga Muhlach mainit ang pagsweng habistos. (Aga doesn't need to be cute eh, cute! Int'l)
- Bella Crawford nagpapaseksi ng todo.

(This sounds infinitely better in English.)

- Gretchen Barretto (Wink ako intindihin ng Bro Mon sa! Eeeeeee!)
- Raphaelea ni Judy Ann Santos, grabeh a kiss scene ni! (May scene kami...)
- Judey Anne sa matron ng pregnancy nora. (Was he...you? Int.)
- Claudine Barretto (Una) ako gulat kay Gretchen! (What, she didn't even say "Kiss" Excellent!)
- Eral Gonzaga (wrong) se ramdom ni Robin Padilla. (Di kaboliwpa, di nanonggo?)

JEFFREY Jetarbat

DANTE Mendoza

State of the nation: 20 views

By Marinel R. Cruz

"I'M FED UP WITH THE LIES OF THE administration. I am using the power of film to relieve some of the government's clutter," said multiawarded movie/TV director Jeffrey Jetarbat, who made the short film "Cambio Tayo Pigauyo, Pwesto Tayo Bukas!"

The eight-minute feature tackles the current state of the country's economy, which is an important concern that, Jetarbat said, would be a deciding factor in this year's national election.

Jetarbat is one of 20 independent filmmakers commissioned by ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC) to take part in "ineXposure 2010," a compilation of 20 short filmsexploring issues like education, environment, runaway reform, corruption, poverty, insurgency and human rights.

RAYMOND Red

KIRI Dalena

Government critics

The project, which aims "to show the state of the nation from the eyes of 20 Filipino filmmakers," is a brainchild of directors Giovanni Dela Cruz and Pedo Sillahona and produced by ANC executive producer Patricia Evangelista.

According to Jetarbat, participating in the omnibus gives filmmakers "the chance to express our views on the current state of the country and to set an exhibit of the personal governments."

He said the film takes off at the time the injury administration placed a newspaper advertisement in January about the country's so-called economic gains.

"In the movie, we show that this pronouncement is a lie," Jetarbat, who snagged the award-winning indie film "Rubdukan," told reporters Wednesday on Wednesday "but [to]hear a ding in the form of a newsboy, an office employee and a company executive, who all go to read the government's claim of economic growth. The film aims to show whether the so-called economic gains are affecting the common folk."

The director said he picked economy as a subject matter because he considers it "safe" and "broad" and covers a lot of topics like corruption, poverty and injustice.

Also working on "ineXposure 2010" are filmmakers Dini Candino, Emmanuel Dela Cruz, Kirk Delmo, Henry Fenix, Jade Gatoo, Erik Matti, Brillante Mendoza, Ellen Ramos, Jun Red, Raymond Red, Arnold Tiang, Adie Tomas, Bodie Villabona, Frankie Villacorta, Theo Mina, Alana Pesabil, Rinnon Reyes, Dan Gombora and McRobert Navarra. They all received a P800,000 grant to produce the short features.

The films will be screened on April 6, followed by a free-cast TV premiere on ANC starting April 13. Interviews with the filmmakers and excerpts of the shorts will be aired nightly at 10:15 on ANC, and rerunsat on ABS-CBN's "Sunday's Best."